

**AIR NATIONAL
GUARD**

**NATIONAL GUARD
BUREAU**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT
ADDRESSING THE HARDWOOD
RANGE EXPANSION AND
ASSOCIATED AIRSPACE ACTIONS**

**VOLUME III - OTHER RELATED
CORRESPONDENCE**

November 2000

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ADDRESSING THE HARDWOOD RANGE EXPANSION AND ASSOCIATED AIRSPACE ACTIONS

VOLUME III – OTHER RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

Air National Guard
National Guard Bureau
Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland

November 2000



This document is printed on recycled paper.

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CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS AND USAF SUPPLIED INFORMATION

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CORRESPONDENCE

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WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

2400 Wright Street, Room 208, Madison, WI 53704-2572 Phone: (608) 242-3114
Fax: (608) 242-3106

28 August 1997

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am writing seeking your support for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

As you know, the National Guard is busier today than at any time in its history. The Army and Air National Guard are serving in almost every operation around the world today. Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing recently returned from Incirlik Airbase, Turkey. They will again serve in that same region of the world later this year.

In order to continue to serve effectively and return home safely in the future, combat aircrews need quality training opportunities. The proposals to expand the range and reassess the airspace go a long way toward this goal.

As members and retirees of the greatest military in the world, you know better than anyone how important quality training is when you are called to serve. Let's support today's aircrews with those opportunities.

Many of the people fighting these actions are arguing one of two things, put it in someone else's back yard or shut down all flying in Wisconsin. The citizen's receiving the most attention are a very vocal minority. Don't let this small, very vocal group take away a tremendous opportunity to improve training in Wisconsin.

How can you help?

Write your elected officials, at both the national and state level. Voice your support for these actions. Voice your support for the Air National Guard. Write letters to your newspapers. Attend the public meetings for the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Show the citizens of this state that people support these proposals and they should too:

If you have questions how you can help, call Major Dave Olson, Wisconsin Air National Guard at (608)242-3126. Major Olson will happy to help you.


ROBERT C. KLINGER
Colonel, FA, WI ARNG
President



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Colonel Robert C. Klinger
President, Wisconsin National Guard
Association, Incorporated
2400 Wright Street
Room 208
Madison, Wisconsin 53704-2572

Dear Colonel Klinger

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB III".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Senator Herb Kohl
205 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

97 SEP 29 AM 10:41

September 9, 1997

Dear Senator Kohl:

This letter is about two subjects.

The first is the ill-advised effort of the Air National Guard to expand their Hardwood Bombing Range from Juneau County onto an additional 6,000 acres of Wood County. The enclosed copy of a letter to Wisconsin's Attorney General Doyle is self-explanatory here. Please implement any legitimate measures you think might help prevent this unnecessary violation of our State's County Forest Land. For example, if the Guard attempts to have this Forest Land condemned through the federal government's eminent domain power over states, please try to thwart this attempt.

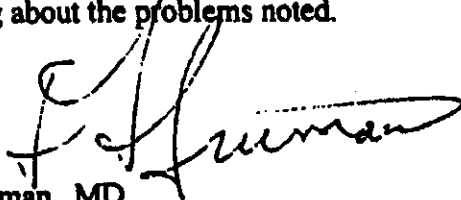
The second subject is Sen. Richard Bryan's "fierce fight in the Senate" to prevent continuation of taxpayer-funded new logging roads in national forests (see enclosed article "Senate to tackle first major environmental vote"). As you no doubt know, by a one vote margin, such a logging roads gift to the timber industry by the taxpayers has already passed the House.

You must also be aware that the net effect of our federal government's largesse to the timber industry (significantly below market payments for the timber rights, free roads and other subsidies) results in a negative cash flow for our government and, thereby, a further increase in our national debt. This debt increase is further augmented by the increase in our balance of trade deficit occasioned by the below market overseas sale of a huge amount of our country's raw timber while we repurchase this same timber as a part of finished products at market prices.

Even if our government made money on the deal, we all should stand opposed to any free logging roads subsidy for the timber industry. As it was in our father & grandfather's time, the current industry is fully capable of paying for its own roads. It is long past time that steps were taken to make sure that a positive cash flow accrues to our government whenever public forest lands are harvested for profit by loggers anywhere.

Senator, thank you for considering this letter. I hope you are willing and able to do something about the problems noted.

Sincerely



D. J. Freeman, MD
1925 Towline Rd.
Wausau, WI 54403

copy
September 9, 1997

Attorney General Doyle
Dept. of Justice
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Attorney General Doyle:

I believe the move by the Air National Guard to expand its Hardwood Bombing Range from Juneau County onto 6,000 acres of Wood County Forest Land is wrong for several reasons. The more important ones are as follows:

1. An area for the Guard to practice bombing is already existent (Juneau County). The removal of a large additional area from public use for bombing escapes logic.
2. The quiddity of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ordered by and prepared for the Guard is that bombing this additional land will cause "no significant (adverse) impact". What, are all the dropped bombs going to miss this huge 6,000 acre land mass? Give us a break! Please consider evaluation of this impact by having the State order a second and an impartial EIS.
3. State Statute 28.11 protects County Forest Land for the benefit of present and future generations. In 1986, then Attorney General Bronson LaFollette opinioned that this Statute did not allow military use of such land. If necessary to prevent the Guard's needless and wasteful violation of this Statute and opinion, please also consider court and any other actions you think might successfully do so.

On behalf of common sense, present and future generations enjoyment of and legitimate profit from our County Forests, and the environment, thank you for considering this letter. Please implement whatever possible measures are needed to prevent the Guard's successful expansion of its Bombing Range into Wood County. And thank you also for this implementation.

Sincerely,


D. J. Freeman, MD

D. J. Freeman, MD
1925 TOWNLINE ROAD
WAUSAU, WI 54483



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Dr. D. J. Freeman
1925 Towline Road
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Dear Dr. Freeman

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we reply to your recent letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

We have determined that the issues you raised concerning the need for the proposed expansion and the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposal have been addressed in a recently released draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS analyzes the potential direct and indirect effects the proposal may have on the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and when indicated, includes measures to mitigate these impacts. Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposal to expand Hardwood Range will be implemented. You have been placed on a mailing list so that you can receive additional materials and information pertaining to the proposal.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SEP 10 1997

Dear Senator Herbert Kohl,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

I am a tax payer. I want our government to operate as cost effectively as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform over 35% of the missions with 18% of the people and only 6% of the Air Force budget. They are training more intensely then ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. Increasing reliance on the Guard for overseas operations makes local training even more important as it helps reduce the need to take traditional members out of the work force for training periods to other installations. Their commitment is enormous and deserves our support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas of the world today. In the past year alone, the 185 Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa spent month long rotations in the skies over northern Iraq. This calendar year, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing will serve two rotations enforcing United Nations sanctions in the skies over Iraq. Aircrews train to perform these real world missions at Hardwood Range and in Volk Field managed airspace.

I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,

Andrew J. Wanta



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Andrew J. Wanta
7763 Klondike Drive
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449-8536

Dear Mr. Wanta

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

10 September 1997

07 SEP 16 AM 10: 24

David A. Beck
S 5193 O'Neil Road
Baraboo, WI 53913

Senator Herbert Kohl
14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 312
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Kohl,

I would like to go on record as being in support of the Air National Guard's proposal to expand the Hardwood Air-to-Ground Range. As a member of Congress, you know that more and more is being asked of our Guard and Reserve forces. Members of the Guard and Reserve willingly serve their country while others reap the benefits of living in a free society.

As you can see from the attached newspaper article, the U.S. Air Force is being asked to do much more with a third fewer personnel. Only a well trained reserve force can offer relief from a long list of regional contingencies world wide.

As those who are opposed to the range expansion or any other proposal continue to exercise their freedoms, please remember that those who serve their country need to be able to train in an environment which offers value and hope for success in the battlefield.

Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts.

Sincerely,



David A. Beck

Air Force pilots bail out to be civilians

By Michael D. Towle
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — At age 31, Capt. Glen Gentile has a job that a lot of Americans fantasize about. An Air Force fighter pilot, he spends his days pushing his F-15 Eagle to the edge of its supersonic capability.

But while Gentile enjoys the excitement of speeding through the skies faster than sound, he and others like him have begun to tire of the demands of leadership in the post-Cold War world.

Repeated deployments in places like Bosnia, Iraq and Saudi Arabia are wearing, and commercial airlines are recruiting growing numbers of military pilots with promises of easier schedules, stable work and pay that can more than double their service salaries.

The Pentagon is worried about that trend — the loss of hundreds of its best warriors, the highly trained pilots who form the cutting edge of America's military capability.

At the heart of the problem are the challenges facing pilots in the new slimmed-down military. Even flyers who served in the Vietnam War say the demands on pilots today may exceed any era in military aviation.

"The Air Force is more of an expeditionary air force now," said Maj. Joe Roeder, who monitors pilot retention for the Air Force. "We are constantly deploying. We were not like that during the Cold War. We have 34 percent fewer people and 66 percent less forward basing, but we are deployed overseas four times as much as we were before the Cold War started."

In recent years, Air Force pilots have resigned in alarming numbers. In 1996, 498 pilots

'The Air Force is more of an expeditionary air force now. We are constantly deploying. We were not like that during the Cold War. We have 34 percent fewer people and 66 percent less forward basing, but we are deployed overseas four times as much as we were before the Cold War started.'

Air Force Maj. Joe Roeder

left. So far in 1997, 626 pilots have joined them. Worse, there is no indication that the trend will slow.

In 1994, 81 percent of the eligible pilots signed up for the bonuses offered to those who agree after their nine-year term of service to stay in the Air Force for an extra six years. So far in 1997, only 82 percent have signed on for additional duty, and the Air Force is not confident that that number will increase by Jan. 1.

The exodus is particularly alarming because it comes at a time when the Pentagon has cut fighter wings and downsized its forces to reflect the end of the Cold War.

The overall size of the Air Force has been trimmed from 607,000 active personnel to 381,000. Since 1989, the number of air bases overseas is down from 37 to 13.

Yet the number of international operations involving the Air Force has increased in recent years, leaving many in Congress to complain

that the problems encountered by pilots can be resolved only at the White House.

"I think there are a lot of reasons for this problem," said Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, a former Air Force fighter pilot who spent seven years in a Vietnam prisoner of war camp. "But I think the No. 1 problem is the president. He has sent our troops all over the world and is over-committing our forces." Pentagon officials say competition from the major airlines has also been a critical factor. The airlines view the military as fertile hunting ground for top-quality pilots with thousands of flight hours under their belts.

Industry experts predict that with a coming global market expansion and the increasing retirement of Vietnam-era pilots now flying for the airlines, the Pentagon and airlines could be in a dogfight for pilots.

To help compete with the airlines, the Pentagon has asked Congress to raise from \$12,000 to \$25,000 the annual bonus given to pilots who remain in the service for an extra six years.

The bonuses could leave returning pilots earning as much as \$75,000 to \$80,000 annually for the duration of the six-year stay, a total of as much as \$480,000. Were those same pilots to leave for an airline, they would earn, on average, about \$300,000 in that same six-year span.

But airline pilots earn substantially more over the long haul. If an Air Force pilot leaves at age 30 to join an airline, he would take about a \$20,000 annual pay cut from his \$50,000 job. By the time he had been out 10 years, he would be earning, on average, about \$150,000 a year. By the time he was out 20 years, he would bring home as much as \$190,000 a year under the current pay scale used by airlines, according to data from the Air Force.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. David A. Beck
S 5193 O'Neil Road
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

Dear Mr. Beck

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

11-Sep-97

Dear Senator Kohl:

97 SEP -7 PM 5:50
I am writing this letter to support the proposed Hardwood Air To Ground Range expansion. I believe that training is essential to the protection of this country and it's interests. History has a funny way of repeating itself and I feel it would be a grave error to allow the proper training of our troops to be either lowered or not updated to modern defense techniques as has happened in our country's past.

I realize that many of the opponents to the expansion are only opposed to it because they feel it's in their "back yard". Well, I live in Juneau County just 7 miles east of Volk Field. I don't find the jets to be a problem, in fact, I find people driving down my road to be a bigger distraction. Others opposed to the expansion seem to me, from newspaper articles I've read, are simply anti-military. And although I respect their opinion, I often wonder if they understand it's our country's defense which allows them to be anti-anything they want and voice their opinion when they want. What I don't respect, as a vet is some of the all out lies that they release or how they bend the truth to suit their purposes.

I urge you when studying this issue, to consider that the opponents to the expansion may be the loudest but I'd bet their not the majority.

Thank you for your time.



Daniel D. Gonnering

1 SEP 30 5:10:42



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Daniel D. Gonnering
N7639 11th Avenue
New Lisbon, Wisconsin 53950-9470

Dear Mr. Gonnering

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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Sincerely

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SEP 12 1997

Dear Senator:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

I am a tax payer. I want our government to operate as cost effectively as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform over 35% of the missions with 18% of the people and only 6% of the Air Force budget. They are training more intensely then ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. Increasing reliance on the Guard for overseas operations makes local training even more important as it helps reduce the need to take traditional members out of the work force for training periods to other installations. Their commitment is enormous and deserves our support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas of the world today. In the past year alone, the 185 Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa spent month long rotations in the skies over northern Iraq. This calendar year, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing will serve two rotations enforcing United Nations sanctions in the skies over Iraq. Aircrews train to perform these real world missions at Hardwood Range and in Volk Field managed airspace.

I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,

Patricia Spoka

Nation

Senate to tackle first major environmental vote

taxpayer-funded logging roads are target of bill

Erin Kelly
Inet News Service

WASHINGTON — In its first major environmental vote of 1997, the Senate will decide next week whether taxpayers should continue to pay for new roads in national forests that timber companies can log trees. Taxpayer groups have denounced the program as corporate welfare for the timber industry, and environmentalists charge that the roads destroy elk habitat and clog lakes and streams with runoff.

Timber industry supporters, however, say the roads ultimately benefit the public by providing access to the forests for firefighters, hunters and recreational users after the logging is done.

Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., expects a fierce fight in the Senate as timber industry supporters rally to end off his attempt to cut the multi-million-dollar "subsidy." The road-building program survived a close vote in the House earlier this year.

"I think it is going to be a battle, but I believe the American taxpayer deserves a victory," said Bryan, who blames erosion from old logging roads for clouding Lake Tahoe, a popular tourist attraction in his home state.

"We're not preventing companies from logging," Bryan said. "We're just saying that taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the roads."

door effort to halt logging in the national forests.

"Anybody who boldly walks up and wants to ban the (road-building program) is basically suggesting that there be no more logging or that the federal government build no more roads in forested lands," said Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho. "If you are going to have a logging program, then you are going to have ... roads."

At stake are two federal programs worth nearly \$100 million total.

The Senate's proposed 1998 budget for the Interior Department calls for \$47.4 million for the construction of logging roads in national forests.

Bryan plans to offer an amendment to cut \$15 million in construction money and transfer another \$10 million to a maintenance fund to be used for the upkeep or removal of existing roads.

He also will seek to abolish a \$50 million "purchaser road credit program," which allows the Forest Service to give trees to timber companies in exchange for an agreement from the companies to build their own logging

roads. About 300 miles of roads are expected to be built under the program in fiscal 1998, which begins Oct. 1.

While Bryan is trying to end the program, Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., is seeking its expansion. He proposes raising the cap on the \$50 million road credit program, meaning that the Forest Service could swap an even greater number of trees for more miles of roads.

An effort to end the road credit program failed in the House in July when Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., offered a compromise that cut funding in half — to \$25 million.

Dicks' successful amendment also cut \$5.6 million in federal funds for road-building — a much smaller amount than the \$42 million that critics of the program were seeking to slash.

"The fact that timber industry supporters were willing to cut the funding at all shows that this program may be vulnerable if we keep after it," said Jim Campi, media director of Citizens Against Government Waste.

But a spokesman for the Ameri-

can Forest & Paper Association said it's unfair to call the program a subsidy when the roads benefit the public. An estimated 97 percent of the 380,000 miles of timber roads in the national forests now are used primarily for recreation and other non-logging purposes, said media director Frank Stewart.

"They are especially important this time of year — in fire season," Stewart said. "They allow firefighters to

get into the forests and put out fire. Environmentalists say the timber industry is exaggerating the public benefit of the roads.

Seventy percent of timber roads are either closed to the public entirely or open only to high-clearance vehicles such as 10-wheel trucks, said Michael Francis of The Wilderness Society.

"The average family in their Dr. Caravan is out of luck," he said.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Patricia Skokan
Post Office Box 93
Westfield, Wisconsin 53964

Dear Ms. Skokan

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

US Senator Herbert R. Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

SEP 12 1997

Dear _____

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

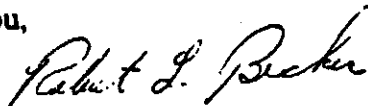
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I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,



Robert L. Becker
425 E. Fitzsimmons
Oak Creek, WI 53001



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Robert L. Becker
425 East Fitzsimmons Road
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Dear Mr. Becker

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

September 13, 1997

U.S. Senator Herbert R. Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

97 SEP 19 11:11:48

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

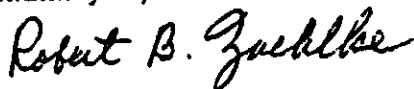
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I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank you,



Robert B. Zuehlke
P.O. Box 36
Balsam Lake, WI 54810-0036



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Robert B. Zuehlke
Post Office Box 36
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810-0036

Dear Mr. Zuehlke

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SEP 19 1997

Dear MR Kohl:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard ⁹⁸ and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

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Thank You,

Lisa McKeller



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Lisa M. Keller
1632 Sunfield Street
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590

Dear Ms. Keller

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Mr. Kahl
97 SEP 19 AM 9:41

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

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Thank You,

Joseph Karabe



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Joseph L. Karaba
Route 1, Box 241N
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Dear Mr. Karaba

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

301 Olivet Street
La Crosse, WI 54603

97 SEP 25 PM 4:43

7 SEP 27

September 16, 1997 10:35
11:11

US Senator Herbert R. Kohl
14 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Kohl:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

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Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas Tanke



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Douglas Tanke
301 Olivet Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

Dear Mr. Tanke

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Senator Kohl:

97 SEP 22 PM 1:33

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

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I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,

Clairman Bryan N. Barnes
Ed & Nancy Barnes

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin N. Barnes
2805 Irvington Way
Madison, WI 53713-3409



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin N. Barnes
2805 Irvington Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53713-3409

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Barnes

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Senator Kohl

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions. 97 SEP 23 PM 2:18

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

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Thank You,



Mr. Arthur C. Ahlstrom
822 2nd Ave. W.
Ashland, WI 54806





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Arthur C. Ahlstrom
822 2nd Avenue West
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Dear Mr. Ahlstrom

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

339 S. 7th Street
Medford, WI 54451

97 SEP 29 PM 3: 51

September 24, 1997

US Senator Herbert R. Kohl
14 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Kohl:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

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Thank you,



Col. Steven J. Bauer (Ret)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Colonel Steven J. Bauer (Ret)
339 South 7th Street
Medford, Wisconsin 54451

Dear Colonel Bauer

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear MR KOHL:

97 SEP 29 11:35

97 SEP 24 PM 12:38

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

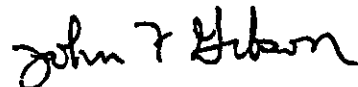
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Thank You,



JOHN F. GIBSON
GIBSON PRESSURE WASHING
1817 CATHERINE AVE.
OSHKOSH, WI 54901-2805



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. John F. Gibson
Gibson Pressure Washing
1517 Catherine Avenue
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-2605

Dear Mr. Gibson

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

September 17, 1997

Dear *Senator Kohl*

97 SEP 25 AH 10:35

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

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I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,

*Sincerely,
Jann Polson*

*Please !!
Give our men a cha*



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Jeanne L. Boehm
RR 1, Box 411
Tomah, Wisconsin 54660-9785

Dear Ms. Boehm

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

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We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

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STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Amos Miller
RR 3 Box 66
Westby, WI 54667

97 OCT -2 AM 10:03

September 28, 1997

Senator Herber Kohl, 330 Hart Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

I'm writing in regards to the Expansion of The Hardwood Bombing Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued recently. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about the proposal to expand the Hardwood Range at informational meetings held this month in Mauston, Black River Falls, and Wisconsin Rapids. Being able to speak in a public hearing format, and have those comments recorded by stenographer to be included in the record for the final environmental impact statement was an important aspect of the EIS process. The law allows for the citizens affected by this proposal to comment, and have their views incorporated into the decisions made.

As a resident of Wisconsin, and as a member of Citizens United Against Low Level Flights, I have been watching closely the developments related to the expansion proposal. After careful reading of the DEIS, I'd like to raise concerns and ask questions about specific items in the draft.

Section 2-28 finds that Class A mishaps would not be significantly altered by the proposed action. However, a landing strip is going to be installed. Don't accidents occur more frequently during take-offs and landings?

Section 2-29 talks about clean up after an accident. When an F-16 from Madison crashed at Strum, Wisconsin in June, 1995 it took three months to sign a contract to clean up hazardous materials. How can the public be confident that an emergency related to bombing practice will be professionally handled with this kind of track record?

Section 1-10 speaks about Hot MOAs being announced on a recorded message. Section 4-3 states that non-military pilots can get a message on an 800 number. If there is foul weather, and a flight is canceled, how soon will the recorded announcement be changed? Pilot's have complained that the message is not changed. How many days during a year is an MOA declared Hot for more than an 8 hour stretch?

Section 2-22 talks about the ANG following FAA rules to minimize hazards. Section 4-3 speaks to emergency medical flight experience. Letters that have been submitted to the EIS, with copies sent to Citizens United, show that crop dusting aircraft working for cranberry growers, and MedFlight helicopters have experienced near misses with military aircraft. At least one area airport with planes on the runway has been buzzed by military planes flying overhead. Why are none of these pertinent facts mentioned in the DEIS?

Section 2-31 states that the Air National Guard avoids populated areas. Have residents of neighboring populated areas submitted comments or letters for EIS? What do they say?

Section 3-3 states that emergency medical aircraft are occasionally denied use of the MOAs. How often is occasionally? Are there records to illustrate this?

Section 2-7 talks of the high water table in the area to be used for a landing strip. What will it cost to build this landing strip? What are the projected costs for all the improvements related to this expansion proposal?

Section 2-30 speaks of livestock habituation having already occurred in the affected areas. How will new animals to the area respond to jet overflight noise?

Section 2-26 includes a table showing day/night averaging of noise from military overflights. How can we believe that noise will not be a problem, as is claimed in the DEIS, if one low-level airplane flying directly overhead will make noise that exceeds 100 decibels, as mentioned in section 2-25? We will not accept these noise events, or their "unavoidable adverse impacts", as mentioned in section 2-27.

As concerned residents of Wisconsin, we want to know the results of coordination that was to have taken place between the Air National Guard and the Fish & Wildlife Service and then be addressed in the EIS. The Fish & Wildlife Service made many requests and suggestions relating to the proposed action. After two and a half years of research, shouldn't we know the results of this coordination?

Section 4-51 to 4-55 refers to Ho-Chunk Indian issues. A memorandum of agreement with the Ho-Chunk has yet to be signed. Will the resolution submitted by the Ho-Chunk legislature opposing the range expansion proposal be ignored? After two and a half years of study, shouldn't these topics be resolved in the DEIS? When will the expansion area be surveyed for undocumented Ho-Chunk sacred sites or artifacts? What is the delay?

Of the Guard units to fly sorties in the MOAs, how many are based closer to other bombing ranges? The only identified unit within 100 miles of Hardwood Range is Madison. The mileage savings of at least two other units is very small; two units, Springfield and Sioux City, actually have to fly farther to get to Hardwood than they would if they were traveling to the range closest to home. How does this add up to economy and cost savings?

Section 2-15 states that unobligated availability of Fort McCoy can't meet air National Guard requirements for training. Can't the public know how many times in a year Fort McCoy is requested for use but unavailable, so we can clearly understand the need for additional facility?

Section 1-8 and 2-17 mention the criteria for AMRAAM, high altitude, medium, and low-altitude training call for all to be within 100 miles of home field or Volk Field. How does this rule affect units proposed to use an expanded Hardwood Range? Section 1-12 refers to several hundred additional comment letters included in the EIS process. Are we, the taxpayers who pay for this study, entitled to know exactly how many letters were received for the EIS? How many in favor of the expansion? How many opposed?

When did the official comment period for the DEIS expire? The Fish & Wildlife Service letter is dated 7-11-95. Was this received within the comment period? A proper response from any concerned party was nearly impossible to put together within the allotted time.

Section 2-5 claims that much of the land north of the existing range is sparsely inhabited. How many people live there? How many people live in the restricted area? How many in the MOAs? Shouldn't this kind of information be in the DEIS?

Section 3-90 says that Volk Field provides 197 jobs. How many jobs are provided by the cranberry farm to be taken over? How many jobs in other cranberry marshes whose crop dusting planes might be threatened? How many jobs in the tourist industry might be lost if an expansion is approved?

Section 4-27 states that federal agencies are directed to avoid new construction in wetlands unless there is no practicable alternatives. Construction, maintenance, and bombing would adversely affect these sensitive areas. Why were the alternatives to the proposed action not addressed more completely?

Section 2-30 claims there will be no adverse impacts on wildlife. The Department of Natural Resources refutes this, and is very unhappy with the many inadequacies in the DEIS.

The Wood County Board remains unanimously opposed to the Hardwood Range expansion, and are against turning over more than 6,000 contiguous acres of county forest land to the Air National Guard as the proposal requires. The DNR will insist that the Wood County Board substitute comparable land for the county forest land that would be given up. How can small scattered parcels be considered equivalent to a single section of forest land larger than 6,000 acres? How would this land exchange occur, and how much would it cost? Why was this very critical matter not discussed in greater detail in the DEIS?

Section 2-16 states that units approaching Hardwood Range from the west or south, using VR-1650, would have an increased distance to travel to use Hardwood Range.. What does this mean? Obviously, if the low-level flight training corridors that were originally part of this proposed action had not been dropped from consideration in the DEIS, these would have been the preferred route to Hardwood from the west or south. Page xv, table S-2 illustrates the historic usage of the various airspace components at Hardwood Range, Volk South MOA being recently added to the configuration in 1993. Will the quadrupled use of Volk South assessed in the DEIS result in the need and eventual request of new MTR corridors south and south-west of Hardwood Range? It is quite clear that Volk South was established with southern and south-western MTRs as an essential future component. Proposed primary using units for an expanded Hardwood Range in section 2-17, table 2-5 show units to the south and south-west. How can these units use Hardwood Range economically without southern and south-western MTRs approaching? These units all have range access as close to or closer to home than Hardwood Range. This is an important question, and the public has the right to know.

I am convinced that the Hardwood Range Expansion plan is ill-conceived and will be ineffective, especially without the proposed new MTRs that were dropped from consideration in April of 1996. It is my understanding that this proposed action must be laid out to the citizenry in it's entirety; that to push through one portion and then to wait until a future date to push through another portion is considered piece-meal, and not allowed.

It has been shown conclusively, according to the DEIS study, that operational limitations made establishing new MTR corridors in southern and south-western Wisconsin leading to Hardwood Range not practicable. If this is true, how then can expanding the Hardwood Range be reasonable? Most of the very same operational limitations exist in the Wood County forest land being considered for the expansion in this proposal.

Please respond to these concerns.

Thank You. Sincerely,

Amos Miller





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Amos Miller
RR 3 Box 66
Westby, Wisconsin 54667

Dear Mr. Miller

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns about the proposal.

You raise several safety concerns with regard to the proposed expansion. Let us assure you that the Air National Guard (Guard) places the highest priority on safety. The Guard is required to fly in accordance with all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and U.S. Air Force rules and regulations, and safety issues associated with the proposal are analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The accident rate data for military aircraft shown in the draft EIS takes into account all types of mishaps, to include those which occur during take off and landing. The 1-800 number and other measures which are to be implemented in conjunction with proposed expansion are designed to maximize safety by ensuring that civilian pilots are informed about Guard flight activities to the maximum extent possible. If an incident involving civilian aircraft should occur, however, it should be reported to the Guard and the FAA as quickly as possible so that the matter can be investigated and corrective measures, if warranted, implemented.

You also express a concern that Fish and Wildlife Service and Ho-Chunk Native Americans be consulted in conjunction with the proposal. Let us assure you that the coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ho-Chunk Native Americans is ongoing. The results of these and other consultations will be included in the final EIS.

You indicate in your letter that certain forest lands must be acquired in order to effect the proposal and asked how this will be accomplished. If implemented, the proposal would expand the Hardwood Range by 7,137 acres, 6,162 acres of which are currently Wood County forest land. The Federal Government has several alternatives at its disposal which can be used to obtain the additional acreage. These include various leasing and ownership arrangements. If negotiated acquisition methods are unsuccessful, the Federal Government can acquire property

through condemnation. If this method is used, the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) appraises the property and generates an estimate of just compensation to use in negotiations with the property owner with the goal of obtaining a voluntary settlement. In the event negotiations with the property owner are unsuccessful, the COE assembles a formal condemnation request package for signature by the Secretary of the Air Force. If the Corps receives a signed package from the Air Force, it forwards the package to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for action by the appropriate United States Attorney Office. A condemnation action is governed by federal statute (40 USC 257, 258a) and the related Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (71 A (h)). If the COE is unable to reach a negotiated property valuation with the property owner, an impartial judicial entity will determine the issue.

Finally, you raise several issues that you feel should be addressed more fully in the draft EIS. These include, among other things, potential effects on natural, cultural, social, and economic resources. Because your comments were submitted on the draft EIS before the public comment period ended on November 21, 1997, these comments will be addressed in the final EIS. You, along with other members of the public, will be able to review the final EIS when it is published.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely



STEPHEN D. BULL, III

Colonel, USAF

Chief, Programs and Legislation

Division

Office of Legislative Liaison

Sen Kohl

Please help us, military is showing we don't count. It's bad enough now, wake says ^{97 SEP 29 AM 10:25} little children crying + scared when they hear all the noise. This is a area that has a lot of people. We don't need them coming from Dakota etc, Mr. is trying to get rid of one, the noise is so bad, can't stand to live there, and can't sell their homes. Don't let them send them here. It's a accident waiting to happen, I accident's now in a week instead of spending money buying land here, open up a base where it's not so populated. We all have been saying for a couple of years We don't want them

Has to be some where they can play besides here -

Lorain + Jack Warner

1139 W State St

Marshfield, WI 54449

Marshfield

News-Herald

Founded 1927

Hardwood plans ripped

WHY DOES Uncle Sam feel the need to wage war in central Wisconsin?

This is a case of more than pleasure flying and war games. It is an unsettling and upsetting experience to taxpaying residents who live here.

At issue are plans to expand the Hardwood Range, a practice air bombing site that straddles Wood, Juneau and Adams counties. The push is on to include 7,137 acres in Wood County, including county forest land.

THAT FACT has a lot of people up in arms — not just those who live close to the range but others who fear the loss of air space for private and commercial flights.

Strong opposition surfaced during a hearing last Thursday night in Wisconsin Rapids. Parents said their children were fearful of the low-flying planes and the roar of the jets.

If the range is expanded, look for even more flights and more noise and more upset.

The Air National Guard, however, keeps pushing its project forward. It is dead set on this mission; people seem expendable. Its officials presented the environmental impact statement during last week's hearing. That step is late in the acquisition process.

WOOD COUNTY has nothing to gain from this expanded base, but a lot to lose.

Marshfield Supervisor David Draves, a key player in this fight, said if the military is

going to take our land it'll have to take it through the powers of eminent domain.

"We're not going to give it up," Draves said, as he put down the political gauntlet. It kind of reminded us of that gun lobby bumper sticker that says you'll have to pry the handgun out of the hand of the cold, dead body.

WE CAN appreciate the military's need to prepare itself for future combat missions. But why focus on a populated area of central Wisconsin? There are a number of closed military bases in other states that might serve its needs just as well, without much disruption.

Eventually, one of these planes — because of the sheer volume and low-flight patterns used — is probably going to crash. Let's hope it doesn't come down in a populated area.

Central Wisconsin flight patterns already are limited because of the existing Hardwood protected air space. Transportation — air included — is important for industrial development efforts in this area. An expanded range would limit the skies even more, and might even slow some air ambulance rescue efforts.

The Hardwood Range, if it is allowed to expand, would have a major impact in this area. Many residents don't understand the implications. Those who live in the path of this noise and bombing activity certainly do. Their voices should be heard.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mrs. L. Warner
1139 West State Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mrs. Warner

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

You express concern about potential noise and safety impacts associated with the proposed expansion. These issues are among those addressed in the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the proposal. The EIS analyzes the potential direct and indirect effects the proposal will have on the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources and, when indicated, includes measures to mitigate these impacts. Because you submitted your comments prior to the closure of the public comment period for the draft EIS on November 21, 1997, your comments will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposal will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Marshfield Area
Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Box 868
S. Central Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449

Barbara Fleisner
Executive Director
715/384-3454
FAX 715/387-8925
E-mail: mucci@wetc.com



October 2, 1997

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl
Hart Senate Building
Room 702
Washington, DC 20510

97 OCT 15 AM 11:42

Dear Senator Kohl,

On behalf of the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board of Directors, we wish to officially go on record opposing the expansion of the Hardwood Air-to-Surface Gunnery Range and Associated Airspace Actions. If this option is implemented, this action would increase the land area of the Hardwood Range, add a new area for potential target locations and drop zones, and modify restricted airspace.

Though we understand the importance of military preparedness and recognize the federal power of eminent domain, we request that a more serious evaluation be made of the other seven alternatives outlined in the Executive Summary of the Environmental Impact Statement. They may better acknowledge the necessity to be consistent with both the nation's defense strategy and regional economic considerations.

After review of the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement addressing the Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions, the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board of Directors has several concerns. The first concern is that the proposal would have a negative impact on general aviation and air commerce at the Marshfield Municipal Airport. It would negatively impact the number and timeliness of departures and arrivals and would impact the use of the S.D.F approach to the airport's runway. It would also negatively impact the safety and utility of the Spirit of Marshfield helicopter based at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors also shares Wood County's concerns over the Hardwood Range Expansion. The Socioeconomic Study reflects a combined potential annual revenue loss of approximately \$42,530, along with loss of agricultural use and timber revenues on private lands, withdrawal of over 300

Senator Kohl
Page 2
October 2, 1997

acres of private lands entered in Woodland Tax Law and Forest Crop Law contracts, reduction of public recreation access and use of the expansion area for hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other forms of recreation, closure or relocation of six miles of state snowmobile trails, and closure of approximately 13 miles of public roads through the expansion area.

In closing, the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry opposes the expansion of the Hardwood Range and Associated Airspace Actions for the economic and social well-being of the Marshfield Area.

Sincerely,



Barb Fleisner
Executive Director

cc: Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Board of Directors

BF/kk



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

January 23, 1998

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20303-1160

Ms. Barbara Fleisner
Executive Director
Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce
and Industry
Post Office Box 868
700 South Central Avenue
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Ms. Fleisner

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to this proposal.

In your letter, you express concern that the proposal would limit recreational opportunities in the area. In this regard, we would like to point out that a wide range of recreational uses occur on the existing range and that we would, to the maximum extent possible, include recreational uses in the management of any new land areas acquired as a result of the proposal. You also expressed concern about the potential economic effects of the proposal as well as potential impacts to general aviation and air commerce in the Marshfield, Wisconsin, area. These concerns are among the issues addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion. The EIS identifies and analyzes the potential effects the proposal may have on the human environment and, when indicated, includes mitigation measures that are to be implemented to reduce these effects. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented. Because your comments were received before the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS, they will be addressed in the final EIS.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Maggie Jones
RR1, Box 263
Blue River, Wisconsin
53518
phone/fax 608-872-2297

97 OCT -9 AM11:51

Oct 4, 1997

Air National Guard

Response to Draft EIS, Hardwood Bombing Range Expansion in
Wisconsin

Raptors

The Ellis 2 year study (1991) is cited because of its favorable light cast on the military. 20 of 22 nests fledged young and 21 of 22 nests disturbed in the first year returned the second to breed. Of greater significance, the number of jet flights the first year were much fewer in number than the second and the study was not followed into subsequent years to see how increased jet traffic would affect the birds breeding success. pg 4-41 top para.

The Ellis study was on adult birds who were already established territorial breeding birds in the area of jet overflights at the time that the study was started. These birds had already been exposed to the jet noise and activities. Therefore it is not accurate to speculate about naive birds and their probable responses.

From the text of the EIS pg 4-41, first paragraph, "The results of this study indicate that low level jet overflights and mid to high level sonic booms *do not have long term adverse impacts* (my emphasis) to nesting raptors. They go on to contradict themselves in the following paragraph by saying "According to Gladwin and MacKenzie long term reactivity to overflights may result in energy losses which 'could be a critical problem for animals that are somewhat energy limited in the first place.'" As any wildlife biologist knows, an "energy limited" state of being is par for the course for any wild animals. Abundance is rare.

It is stated that long term consequences of exposure to these disturbances are unknown. It is also stated numerous times that few studies exist on jet noise response in raptors.

On pg 4-42, para 4, it is stated in the section on mitigation that the "USFWS typically recommends a distance of 0.25 (1/4) mile for avoidance of impacts to Bald Eagles, Osprey, red-shoulder hawks and peregrine falcon nests; Bald Eagle wintering sites, wildlife in wilderness areas and colonial bird nesting sites." This is not true as the USFWS recommended a range of distance consistently stating a range of "at least a quarter mile, but preferably 2,500 feet (1/2 mile = 2640 feet) above and to the side" of sensitive wildlife areas. They also state that helicopters should stay more than 5 mile away from sensitive areas. In many areas it is recommended that aircraft avoid altogether. These pages are not numbered!! therefore how can you site them?? It is imperative that the mitigation follow the 1/2 mile preferred recommendation.

Bald eagle winter roosts are something I know quite a bit about and the cavalier treatment they get is typical of this report. It is a known fact that winter roosting bald eagles change their site from night to night or from week to week according to changing weather patterns, wind direction being a significant factor in their choice of roost site. It is also a fact that roost sites are still being discovered by researchers. All roost site locations are by no means known, even significant roost areas are yet to be identified. Therefore it is impossible to keep jets away from this threatened species. Even minor disturbance to winter roosts is a major threat to bald eagle survival.

I urge you to drop completely the plans for expansion of the bombing range. Going ahead ~~will be~~ ultimately disastrous for wildlife that is struggling to maintain a toehold on this earth.

cc Senator Russel Feingold
Senator Herb Kohl

Maggie Jones

*Senator Kohl please help us
defeat this wrongheaded
proposal-*



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Maggie Jones
RR1, Box 263
Blue River, Wisconsin 53518

Dear Ms. Jones

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter, you express concern about the potential effects the proposal will have on raptors, eagles, and other birds and provided commentary on sources used by the Air National Guard to assess potential impacts. Potential impacts to natural resources are among the issues addressed in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The EIS analyzes the potential effects the proposal will have on the human environment and, when indicated, includes measures to mitigate these effects. As part of the EIS process, the Guard is also consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the results of this consultation will be included in the final EIS. Because you provided your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS on November 21, 1997, they will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is located below the word "Sincerely".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the Wisconsin National Guard. You may know someone like me who is in the National Guard. Many are your friends, members of your families, business acquaintances or even your sons or daughters. Most of us are "part time" citizen soldiers and airmen who also have "full time" jobs, and raise families within our communities.

As you know, there is currently an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being done for a modest expansion of the Hardwood Range. A small addition of ground space is needed to allow pilots to train for changing situations. Including scenarios where they are protecting us on the ground.

Army and Air National Guard units are serving in dangerous areas today where that training is crucial. Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing, located in Madison, recently returned from Turkey after serving as the lead Air Force fighter unit enforcing United Nation's imposed sanctions in the skies over Iraq. They will again fly in that dangerous area of the world later this year. The 115th is the primary user of Hardwood Range, flying over half of all training flights in the area.

Congressional leaders have told the National Guard that our involvement in world wide operations will remain at this high level, and, could possibly increase as the active duty faces further budget cuts. This places a premium on training that can be accomplished close to home. Local training reduces the amount of time spent away from families and jobs. The additional stress of multiple deployments combined with training at other locations is already causing members to leave the guard.

There are multiple costs associated with the loss of these members. First, we as tax payers have a great deal invested in training these men and women to perform their jobs at the high level they do. For example, it takes over two years and costs one to two million dollars to train a pilot to the point where they are combat qualified. To continually have to retrain people is expensive and time consuming. Second, that is a loss of experience that can never be regained. The greatest source of knowledge any of us can enjoy is sharing time with people who have experienced events themselves.

There are people opposed to this expansion. There are also those of us who support this proposal. I believe that the modest expansion of the Hardwood Range is an investment in the future, for you and I as tax payers and especially for our sons and daughters who will serve in the future.

Thank you.





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Scott Molle
3341 Mirage Circle
Plover, Wisconsin 54467

Dear Mr. Molle

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

10 Oct 97

Dear Senator Kohl,

97 OCT 16 PM 3:18

At the last public meeting concerning the bombing range expansion in Wisconsin, the representatives of our state senators stated that the Senators were unclear as to the wishes of the people regarding this issue as they had not received any public outcry against it.

Sir, what have your representatives been listening to and reporting to you as a comment on these meetings. Testimony against the proposal was very great. Testimony for was made by individuals in the military or associated with the military for security reasons.

Promises have been made and not kept (some call this lying). A case in point is the promise made before the last meeting that public testimony would be included in the draft of the E17. The military has not demonstrated a need for this expansion. I believe this to be an item that would be nice to have.

The people of Wisconsin need their Senators to pay attention to what is happening in Wisconsin. Please do not forget your constituents!

Sincerely,

Bernard J. Krause

1-52

1407 S. E. - Marshfield Wis. 54449



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Bernard J. Krause
1407 South Erickson
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mr. Krause

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the Air National Guard (Guard) proposal to expand the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the concerns and comments raised by the public relating to this proposal.

We have forwarded your letter for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

10 Oct 97

John R. Croft
P.O. Box 8111
Madison, WI 53708-8111

Dear Citizens,

As the Director of Flight Operations for the Wisconsin Air National Guard, I share the responsibility of ensuring that members of the Air National Guard are highly trained and prepared for world wide deployment and possible combat. You may know someone in the National Guard. Many are your friends, members of your families, business acquaintances or even your sons or daughters. Most of us are "part time" citizen soldiers and airmen who also have "full time" jobs, and raise families within our communities.

A little over six years ago, I found myself in a very precarious position as an aerial refueling pilot flying toward the border of Iraq on the first night of the Gulf War. As you can well imagine, the reality of not knowing what was awaiting us that night made my heart beat just a little quicker than normal.

I feel now, as I did then, the primary reason we did so well in that conflict was due to our ability to fight the way we trained. Realistic training was the key to our success. One place we practiced was at the Hardwood Range. I can remember the countless times I have personally refueled Air National Guard jets over Wisconsin and the Hardwood Range so they could train in the most efficient way possible to maintain the skills needed to survive in combat.

As many of you know, there is currently an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being done for an expansion of the Hardwood Range. The aircraft of today are much faster and more complex than when the area was originally designed. An addition of ground space is needed to enable "multiple and changing scenarios" as was experienced during Desert Storm. I want our pilots as ready as possible for threats they may encounter in future operations.

Air National Guard units continue to serve daily in dangerous areas where that training is crucial. Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing, located in Madison, recently returned from Turkey after helping enforce United Nation's imposed sanctions in the skies over Iraq. They will again fly in that very unstable region of the world later this year. The 115th is the primary user of Hardwood Range, flying over half of all training flights in the area.

It is highly probable that the Air National Guards involvement in world wide operations will remain at a high level, and could possibly increase as the active Air Force faces further budget cuts. This places a premium on training. Traditional members of the guard take time off from work, and more importantly, time away from their families, to serve in these deployments. This is a tremendous sacrifice. To also ask them to take time off to train at distant and remote training facilities, is an additional burden, an unnecessary burden when quality training is available at Volk Field and the Hardwood Range.

There are people opposed to this expansion. They have been very vocal with their concerns. You, however, may feel as I do that a modest expansion of the Hardwood Range is an investment in the future, both as taxpayers and especially for our sons and daughters who will serve in the future.

Please feel free to contact me, my project officer Major Dave Olson (608-242-3126), or your congressional representatives to learn more about this expansion proposal or to express your opinions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Colonel John Croft



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Colonel John R. Croft
Post Office Box 8111
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8111

Dear Colonel Croft

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Senator Kohl:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

NOV 14 PM 4:35

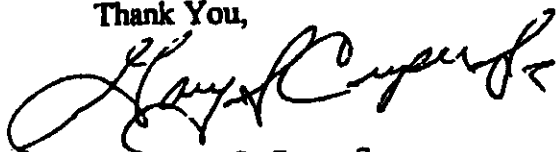
The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and mobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

I am a tax payer. I want our government to operate as cost effectively as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform over 35% of the missions with 18% of the people and only 6% of the Air Force budget. They are training more intensely than ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. Increasing reliance on the Guard for overseas operations makes local training even more important as it helps reduce the need to take traditional members out of the work force for training periods to other installations. Their commitment is enormous and deserves our support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas of the world today. In the past year alone, the 185 Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines Iowa spent month long rotations in the skies over northern Iraq. This calendar year, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing will serve two rotations enforcing United Nations sanctions in the skies over Iraq. Aircrews train to perform these real world missions at Hardwood Range and in Volk Field managed airspace.

I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve the country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You,



Sgt. Gary S. Cuper Sr.
Wisconsin Army National Guard (retired)
217 20th St.
Clear Lake WI 54005-3715



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Gary S. Cuper, Sr.
217 20th Street
Clear Lake, Wisconsin 54005-3715

Dear Mr. Cuper

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

309 W. Upham
Marshfield, WI 54449

97 OCT 21 PM 3:52

October 17, 1997 .

U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

Dear Senator Kohl:

I oppose the proposed expansion at the existing Hardwood Air-to-Ground Bombing Range by the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and I hope you will, too.

The expansion would create long-term environmental problems, and the noise from the increased bombing runs will negatively impact people nearby and along the flight routes. There are also several wildlife species in the area that are either threatened or endangered, and, reading the Air National Guard's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it's clear that very little is known about the long-term impact to these species by the expansion.

The expansion would take away 6,000-plus acres of Wood County Forest land from the citizens of Wisconsin. Thousands of people use this land every year for a host of recreational activities, and expansion of the range will mean a real loss for the people of Central Wisconsin.

Finally, I'm also worried that letting the Guard take county forest land will set a dangerous precedent. Such lands are meant for all Wisconsin citizens, yet this expansion into Wood County land could mean similar losses in the future, and it is impossible to replace these large, undeveloped.

For these reasons, I hope you'll work to stop the proposed expansion at the Hardwood Range. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Brian McCombie



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Brian McCombie
309 West Upham
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mr. McCombie

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has requested that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter you express concern about the potential effects the proposal will have on the citizens of Wisconsin. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range analyzes potential effects the proposal may have on the human environment, to include impacts to natural, cultural, social and economic resources. When indicated, the EIS will also address measures which will be implemented to mitigate these effects. Because you provided your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS on November 21, 1997, they will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Senator Kohl & Staff -

Please continue to oppose the
expansion of the Hardwood Banting
Range & Related Airspace use.

Enclosed is my copy of the letter
I wrote to the DEIS.

Thanks so much for your work
on this issue to date.

Edie Ehler

Edie Ehler

RR1 Box 21 B

Ferryville WI 54628

October 19, 1997

Air National Guard Readiness Center
Program Manager, Hardwood EIS
ANGRC/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews Air Force Base, MD 20762-5157

Sir:

I'm writing in response to the DEIS on the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range and related airspace.

Overall, the DEIS fails to address many specific environmental concerns directly. In some areas, "consultations are ongoing". How can we comment on research and consultations if they are not included in the DEIS?

Further, the DEIS states inadequate research as reasons to conclude "no significant impacts". If research is inadequate and some research has indicated potential problems, those problems must be addressed in the EIS. Specifically I will point out some of the areas of inadequacy that I found and request that each be fully addressed in the EIS.

ASSESSMENTS: Request that the term assessment be accurately defined in the EIS, and that the phrase, "worst case scenario" be dropped from the document. The phrase "worst case scenario" is used at least six times to refer to the proposed assessment levels of use of the Hardwood Bombing Range expansion and related airspace use. According to LTC Gunther Neuman of Volk Field, assessments are "best guess estimates". Citizens United Against Low Level Flights learned this at a meeting with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration and Air National Guard on January 8, 1997. Further, the ANG acknowledged that MOA Falls One and MOA Falls Two are being used 6 and 8 times more respectively than their original assessments. (Hardwood Range and Related Airspace Proposal Information Sheet, August 1996). To use the phrase "worst case scenario" is to imply that assessments are absolute amounts. If the ANG wants to use subjective language, a realistic "worst case scenario" would be 8 times the proposed assessed levels of use, with no public input with the increases.

COSTS: Request that the costs of present training (as in Table 2-5, p. 2-17) be compared to the projected costs of all the expansions proposed in the DEIS. Other projects around the country could offer a realistic cost projection. To suggest that these pilot travel costs to use other military fields will be "saved" by the expansion is erroneous. The ANG must figure the real costs of the expansions into the scenario.

THE USE OF PRESENT FACILITIES TO JUSTIFY EXPANSION:

Request that present facilities are not used to justify expansions. "Technological improvements at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), such as Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) system make it possible for military flying units to accomplish a broad range of training..." (DEIS 1.3). Expansions must stand on their own in the DEIS process.

NOISE: Request that other available programs, namely ASAN be used to calculate noise. Noise averaging methods which assume an urban environment base level is inaccurate in a rural Wisconsin area. Further, NOISEMAP model ignores other available models, most notably ASAN. This program rejects continued use of the DNL metric for assessing human annoyance. ("ASAN", paper by Paul Sharp of Armstrong Laboratories, Wright-Patterson AFB, P. 8).

WET LANDS: Request that thorough research be done on all contaminant possibilities to surface and ground water. Most of the area of the proposed Hardwood Bombing Range expansion is wet lands. Yet just 3½ pages (DEIS 4.6) concludes there will be "unavoidable impacts to water resources" in construction, but no other impacts to water resources. Roads, drainage, and bomb contaminants will cause ongoing water contaminants and serious changes in the wet lands environments. These are written off because its "difficult to predict" (DEIS 4.6.2.5). Difficult means real study is needed, not "no adverse impacts" (DEIS 4.6.4). Further, here is an area where the questions raised by the DNR and USFWL are not answered, so we cannot comment on them. The questions raised by these agencies must be answered in the DEIS (see Appendix G for DNR and USFWL letters).

LAND EXCHANGE: Request that the EIS fully address the proposed land exchange for the proposed Hardwood Bombing Range expansion as requested by the DNR (p. 4, DNR letter, appendix G).

CONTAMINANTS AND TOXIC MATERIALS: Request that studies done by the Air Force and Army and independent agencies be included. Chaff, in particular, "poses no known risk to humans or animals." (DEIS 4.3.2). Yet the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection claims studies are inadequate. Further, the Air Force documents lack of information saying "There is no documentation of human exposure studies to chaff." ("Identifying and Evaluating the Effects of Chaff from Military Aircraft"). In 1992 the Army concluded "there is a persistent risk of fiber inhalation and mitigation efforts will likely be required for areas containing high fiber content." The comments of these agencies that studies are needed is not the same as "no risk". Titanium Tetrachloride used in signal charges is classified as a poisonous gas by the US Department of Health and Human Services and as a Hazardous Substance by the Department of

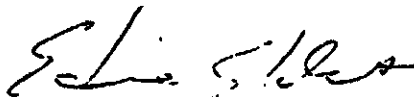
Transportation and US Environmental Protection Agency. It is toxic to humans and animals. The DEIS fails to address its toxicity. The Defense Installation Restoration Project located at Hardwood has a "small plume of contaminated ground water" identified in 1995. Yet "No monitoring is currently being performed at the site." (DEIS 3.4.1). Both monitoring and correction is needed at this site. How much more wastes will be created with the construction and use of the proposed expansions? How will these wastes be dealt with? How much pollution will they create?

WILDLIFE: Request that more and different studies be included to understand the effects on wildlife. The Ellis study was done on adult birds for one year. The next year jet flights increased and follow up studies were not done to note the effects on young birds with more flights. Obviously this is a very limited study to use to suggest that raptors will not be too adversely affected. (DEIS 4.8.1.3) In addition, suggesting that avoidance of roosting areas is a solution ignores the fact that roosting habits change daily and weekly according to weather. Thus the avoidance suggestion is impossible.

I request that all questions and requests raised in this letter be addressed in the final EIS.

Sincerely,

Edie Ehlert
RR1 Box 21 B
Ferryville, WI 54628





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Edie Ehlert
RR1, Box 21 B
Ferryville, Wisconsin 54628

Dear Ms. Ehlert

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter, you comment on several matters addressed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes the impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources. Because you submitted your comments before the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS, the comments and issues you raise will be forwarded to the appropriate office so that they can be addressed in the final EIS.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Author: Senator Kohl at Kohl-DC
Date: 10/20/97 8:55 AM
Priority: Normal
TO: Mike Weiss
Subject: Forest land for bombing

----- Message Contents -----

Marian Seagren Hall
Stettin Drive
WI 54401
19, 1997

Bill and
4803
Wausau,
October

Dear Senator:

We are very concerned about the continuing plans to expand the
Hardwood Bombing Range onto 6000 acres of Wood County Forest Land. The
National Guard's Environmental Impact Statement of "no significant impact" is
absolutely wrong!

Please issue a clear message to the military that explains that
federal condemnation of county forest land is a violation of states' rights.

Thank you for your attention to this grave matter.

Hall

Bill and Marian Seagren
715-842-7464



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Seagren
4803 Stettin Drive
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Seagren

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the Air National Guard (Guard) proposal to expand the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the concerns and comments raised by the public relating to this proposal.

We have forwarded your letter for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

en Herb Kohl

20 OCT 97

97 OCT 27 AM 11:00

Subject: Hard Wood Range Expansions:

as a 60 year resident of South Wood County and a
Air Force Veteran: I can say that I am opposed
to another Hard Wood Range Expansion:

My main reasons for opposition:

as a A.F. Veteran I know how many bases were closed since the
1950's. This is a time for deconstruction not expansion:
use an existing or closed base.

Noise pollution: We get enough noise pollution including
sonic booms from the A.N.G. Plane's. We don't need more.

Loss of another 6000 acres of County land to expansion.
We are against this loss. This land is used by my
self & family as an area of outdoor activities. The population
of Wood County will not shrink in the future but this population will
expand - only outdoor land will shrink - God Doesn't need
any more.

1. Road closing is:

With another expansion - the Bathmans and County line Rd's we
close. in our area these are our only close alternate roads
when Hwy 173 is closed for repairs.

I am unhappy that my past letters of opposition to an Expansion
no longer count - so I am again stating - I am opposed.

George H Carlson

1121 Section St

N. Hoosier Wis.

1-67

54457

20 OCT 97



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. George H. Carlson
1121 Section Street
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

Dear Mr. Carlson

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter, you express concern that the proposal would limit recreational opportunities in the area. In this regard, we would like to point out that a wide range of recreational uses occur on the existing range and that we would, to the maximum extent possible, include recreational uses in the management of any new land areas acquired as a result of the proposal. You also raise issues concerning the need for the proposed expansion as well as potential noise and transportation impacts associated with the proposal. These concerns are among the issues addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion. The EIS analyzes the potential effects the proposal may have on the human environment to include impacts on natural, cultural, economic and social resources. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented. Because you submitted your comments before the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS, they will be addressed in the final EIS.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

CHARLES H. ARNOLD
845 CRANMOOR ROAD
NEKOOSA, WI. 54457-1012: 43
October 21, 1997

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator Russ Feingold
U.S. Representative Dave Obey

REF: PROPOSED EXPANSION HARDWOOD BOMBING RANGE, Volk Field, WI
Gentlemen:

I am a former Air Force enlisted person. I went to Fort F. E. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyo., and Gunter AFB, Ala., for administrative and aero-medical technician (flight surgeon assistant) schooling following my basic training in Texas. I served with the flight surgeons of the 22d Bomb Wing, at March AFB, Calif., and the 1st Fighter Wing at George AFB, Calif., and then was sent to Japan Air Defense Force Headquarters, Nagoya, Japan, then to USAF Hosp Kimpo AFB, South Korea as flight surgeon assistant; fighter reconnaissance base: attained the noncommissioned rank of staff sergeant, and honorably discharged after 5 years in the service. I was a part of the Korean Police Action and observed some of every day actions and flying.

I am appalled at the military saying they need an additional 7000+ acres for the proposed Hardwood bombing range expansion which is at the expense of farmers' homesteads and woodlands being utilized for a livelihood or recreation not to mention the tax base to be lost by local townships and Wood County. The tax lost will have to be picked up by the remainder of the county. This addresses tax base and that revenue only; and, doesn't address the agriculture loss, to the farmer or cranberry grower or the wood pulper.....County forestry will be impacted as well as the wage earnings, which is one of the hardest ways to earn a living. Recreation will be terminated, hunting, hiking, snow mobiling, just to name a few.

This is quite tragic having to uproot families that have lived in that area for a couple generations and telling them you have to go some where else... granted there will be compensation but what is that. I know there exists other land already federally owned that could be utilized for low-level training routes...I don't believe the city of Nekoosa is on there route but last month a jet flew over and snapped a sonic boom back to back...not for the first time!! We thought the paper mill downtown had blown up until we saw a jet afar off. That does shake the house just to say the least!! Then someone asks did you get a description or ID number. What type of consideration will the taxpayers receive if the addition goes through? I sure wish someone would get realistic!

When I was in service the service man regardless of rank knew if there was no PR with locals the service had nothing. Another item of interest in the local paper states: letters written before the environmental impact statement was published no longer are applicable and won't be included in a final report to the secretary of the Air Force, who will make or delegate the range-expansion decision. With all due respect to the secretary of the Air Force but, this sounds like a ramrod militaristic attitude that I read about in the LIFE MAGAZINE in the 1930'S. In my opinion the above lacks logic, can you be of some assistance? Thanks =

SINCERELY,



cc: Wood County Supervisor Dave Draves & Forest Administrator Mr. Westegaard



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Charles H. Arnold
845 Cranmoor Road
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

Dear Mr. Arnold

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter, you express concern that the proposal would limit recreational opportunities in the area. In this regard, we would like to point out that a wide range of recreational uses occur on the existing range and that we would, to the maximum extent possible, include recreational uses in the management of any new land areas acquired as a result of the proposal. You also expressed concern that the proposal will result in a loss of tax base and wages for the local community. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion will assess the potential economic effects of the proposal as well as impacts to natural, cultural and social resources. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented. Because you submitted your comments before the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS, your comments will be addressed in the final EIS.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Jim Ginter 11:48
W7567 2nd. st. Necedah, WI 54646
(715)-884-6403
fax (715) -884-6733
email - jmginter@wi.lds.net

October 22, 1997

Paul Westegaard
Wood County Parks and Forestry
Courthouse
400 Market St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

07 OCT 24, PM 12:32

Dear Mr. Westegaard,

I am writing for the purpose of expressing my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Hardwood bombing Range into Wood County.

I am a land owner in Wood County and in Juneau County, with the parcels in close proximity to the existing range and the proposed expansion area. As well, I have read the draft EIS on the subject.

The EIS is, in short, a complete sham. It is obviously nothing more than a tool constructed to attempt to dupe the thinking public into agreeing with the military philosophy of twisted ecological land management.

As a responsible steward of my own properties, I was shocked to read that the EIS does not address the disruptive behavior that low flying military aircraft weilds upon our native animal, mammal, and reptile species.

Over the last 30 years, I have noticed creatures such as migratory birds, upland birds, deer and squirrels acting in unusual distressed ways when military aircraft use the range. I have seen game animals literally run in circles from the jet noise, not instinctively knowing how to escape their plight. I have seen Ruffed Grouse nests on my land abandoned after week long incidents of fighter aircraft pounding the range. Yet the EIS addresses only some chicken study for comparative purposes. Local ducks which nest on my property only have one brood, yet in other areas away from the range, two broods are the norm. Why? The EIS is supposed to answer questions such as this. I see less and less snakes all the time on my land. In years of large snake populations elsewhere, I never see an increase on my land. The Rattlesnake in the range area is almost extinct.

Before the current range existed, there were many Rattlesnakes. The balance of nature has been dramatically affected by the military use of the land, and now they want to make it worse.

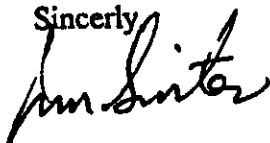
Noise pollution to humans is intolerable, and will only get worse with an expansion. The EIS computer model for noise is a total techno-jargon farce. Nowhere is it based on what really happens at the immediate injection of severe noise pollution from military aircraft. The EIS sides with the military when it has concluded that any adverse noise impact can be mitigated on a case by case basis. How can they ever mitigate noise pollution now, when it has been impossible for them to do so up to this point?

I would like to commend the Wood County Board for standing ground against this expansion. They are truly acting for the direct benefit of the citizens and landowners of Wood County.

It is my intention that this letter gets forwarded to Andrews AFB to be included in the final EIS.

As well, I am sending a copy of this letter to Senators Feingold and Kohl in an effort to garner their support against the expansion.

Sincerely



Jim Ginter



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Jim Ginter
W7567 2nd Street
Necedah, Wisconsin 54646

Dear Mr. Ginter

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to the proposal.

In your letter, you expressed concern about the potential effects the proposal will have on migratory birds, upland birds, and other wildlife. Potential impacts to natural resources are among the issues addressed in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The EIS analyzes the potential effects the proposal will have on the human environment and, when indicated, includes measures to mitigate these effects. As part of the EIS process, the Air National Guard (Guard) is also consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on natural resource issues and the results of this consultation will be included in the final EIS. You also expressed concern about the means used to assess potential noise impacts. You may be assured that the Guard used the most current, scientifically accepted methodology to assess potential noise effects associated with the Hardwood Range proposal. The results of our noise analysis are addressed in the EIS. Because you provided your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS, they will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

830 Avon Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

97 OCT 27 AM 10:59
October 23, 1997

Senator Herbert Kohl
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

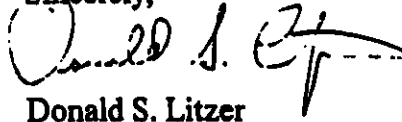
Dear Senator Kohl,

I write today to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Air National Guard's Hardwood Bombing Range into south Wood County. After hearing the arguments of the Air National Guard officials, I see their justification for needing additional room to perform their maneuvers to be quite weak. Indeed, it seems that the National Guard, which already has managed to avoid its fair share of cutbacks in the post-Cold War era, is using this expansion to strengthen its position against future cutbacks, and overstating the national security threat to achieve political ends.

Even if the Guard's space needs were valid, its needs would not outweigh the environmental costs which would be incurred by such an expansion. It is distressing that the National Guard has failed to even adequately address valid environmental concerns. Military intrusion into this wildlife haven in south Wood County would have substantial deleterious effects, and would effectively exclude the area from outdoor use by civilians.

I certainly hope that you will exercise prudent policy positions toward military expansion and environmental degradation and do everything in your power to ensure that this expansion does not proceed.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Litzer



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Donald S. Litzer
830 Avon Street
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Dear Mr. Litzer

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter regarding the Air National Guard (Guard) proposal to expand the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the concerns and comments raised by the public relating to this proposal.

We have forwarded your letter for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

25 October 1997

Dear Senator Kohl,

97 OCT 29 AM 11:26

As a citizen of Wood County and an Air Force veteran, I am concerned about the unrealistic attacks against the Wisconsin Air National Guard and the need for expansion of the Hardwood Range. Your support is needed for the following reasons:

- 1-The Hardwood Range needs to be upgraded for the next generation fighter plane, the F-22.
- 2-These part-time military pilots need to train in their home state for they have civilian jobs and families to support.
- 3-The Guard Fighter Groups are involved in more world-wide military operations because the active Air Force has been reduced in size by budget cuts.
- 4-If Wisconsin Guard pilots are to continue to perform expertly, they need the best training opportunities America can provide for them. They need to be combat ready at all times.
- 5-Last year our P.O.W. group was honored at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita, Texas. This is the main training facility for Air Force fighter pilots and for nine N.A.T.O. nations. The commanding general briefed us on modern flight training which costs one million dollars per year for each student pilot. This investment in military preparedness could be lost if we should fail to provide adequate training facilities.
- 6-The United States is the only remaining Superpower and Uncle Sam needs to carry the "Big Stick" which is Air Power. The Wisconsin Air National Guard is now and should continue to be an important part of our Air Force.

I urge you to support the Hardwood Range expansion project.

Sincerely,

John E. Thompson

John E. Thompson M.D.

705 West 5th St.

Nekoosa, Wi. 54457

Captain U.S.A.A.F.

86th Fighter Group W.W.2

P.O.W. 1944.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 23, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Dr. John E. Thompson
705 West 5TH Street
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

Dear Dr. Thompson

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter expressing support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range, Wisconsin, expansion. We welcome the opportunity to respond to concerns and comments raised by the public relating to the proposal.

Your letter has been forwarded for inclusion in the administrative record for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the proposal. The EIS identifies and analyzes potential impacts to the human environment, to include impacts on natural, cultural, social and economic resources, and provides the Secretary of the Air Force the information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your taking the time to express your views on this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

10/27/97

Dear Senator Kohl,

As a concerned citizen of Wood Co.,
State of WI and a member of your district
I'm asking for your help to prevent the
expansion of the Hardwood Runway Range.

I live Southwest of Marshfield in
the town of Rock and already experience
the Violations of the MCA area. I see the
disruption of the low, fast flying
planes cause the dairy industry and to
say nothing about the wildlife and
certainly quality of family life living
here.

As a medical person I'm concerned
about safe medical airlift procedures
in our area.

We own a small airplane which
is certainly at risk to use with this
type of air traffic.

The Military already owns thousands
of acres of uninhabited space they
could use.

I will be waiting to hear a
response from you in regards to
this issue.

Sincerely,
Carol Rand RN

CAROL RAND RN
11007 McArthur Dr.
Marshfield, WI 54449



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

January 23, 1998

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Carol Rand
11007 McArthur Drive
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Ms. Rand

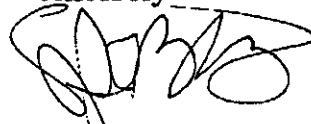
The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your recent letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion in Wisconsin. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns about the proposal.

Your letter raises some safety concerns with regard to the proposed expansion. Let us assure you that the Air National Guard (Guard) places the highest priority on safety. The Guard is required to fly in accordance with all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and U.S. Air Force rules and regulations, and safety issues associated with the proposal are analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The 1-800 number and other measures which are to be implemented in conjunction with the proposed expansion are designed to maximize safety by ensuring that civilian pilots are informed about Guard flight activities to the maximum extent possible. These measures should also allow emergency medical flights to safely traverse military training airspace. However, if an incident involving a civilian aircraft should occur, it should be reported to the Guard and the FAA as quickly as possible so that the matter can be investigated and corrective measures, if warranted, implemented.

You also raise some concerns about matters which are among the issues addressed in the EIS for the proposal. The EIS analyzes potential impacts the proposal will have on the human environment, to include impacts to natural, cultural, social and economic resources and, when indicated, incorporates measures to mitigate these impacts. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the draft EIS on November 21, 1997, they will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will provide the Secretary of the Air Force information needed to decide if the proposed expansion will be implemented.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bull, III', written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Sen Kohl,

We don't want the bombing range
Have written alot of letters. 97 DEC 24 AM 10:55

Now they say the over 700 letters won't
count! Guess that's one way to get
your way, How crooked. But guess
the people living here, have no rights.
The Col. from Madison said he wants it of
course. He doesn't have to live under
the noise + danger. They had 7 accidents
in 2 weeks, ^{in the military} We don't need that flying
over a area with alot of people. I
W. by Wis. Min. has a place trying
to get it, we don't need it - There
has to be some place, that doesn't
have alot of people. I wrote to alot of
Wis - men in politics, Never even got
a letter. Shows how much we
count. The army shows this cancelling all
those letters.

an that's wrong

L Warner

1139 W State St

Marshfield, WI

54449

Sen H Kohl

We in the area need your help.
We don't need or want ⁹⁷ ~~this~~ ^{PH 12:19} ~~front~~ range.
The air Guard is treating us like we are
nothing. They had over 700 letters against
it, so they changed the rules, Crooked!
Now all those letters don't count, we
have to start all over, a lot of people don't
know this, so they can say, oh not to
many people against it

It's over a area with alot people.
a accident waiting to happen, you can
see by this article they like to play dangerous
games, treat us like dirt. And this article
only lists a few of the near accidents.
Has to be a unpopulated area some where
to put them.

Heard from Sen. Feingold, he is doing His
best to help. Close the range, as long as
it open they will try every crooked thing to
get there way,

The sky doesn't belong to them,

The homes + people have a right to not
have the noise + danger overhead.

Mn, is trying to get rid of them, can't stand
living in these homes, and can't sell them.

So keep them out before, or we will never
get rid of them.

Please,

John + Lorraine Warner

1139 W State St

Marshfield, W,

54449

*Warning
attach*

Don't expand the range

Editor, News-Herald: In response to Col. John Craft's letter:

Col. Craft: Yes, I am 100 percent opposed to the expansion of the Hardwood Gunnery Range. Your people lie!

Last summer, when two F-16s "pounced" a C-130 in the Marshfield traffic area outside of the Volk Military Operations Area, I complained to Green Bay Flight Service and received a return call from Captain "X" at Madison promising a letter of explanation. I never received it.

This summer we were buzzed by a B52-H; another call to GBR-FSS; and a call to the Milwaukee Flight Safety Director of Operations garnered me an assurance that a reply would be forthcoming from the Minot, N.D. FSDO — no response!

The B-52, which passed directly overhead at approximately 500 feet above ground level at about 400 knots, proceeded west at full throttle startling a lot of people and livestock.

Something is wrong with this picture. As a civilian pilot, I am required to obey a lot of rules and regulations. You folks outside of an MOA are bound by the same set of regulations.

An aeronautical map of the USA reveals thousands of square miles devoted to MOAs. Our Canadian neighbors have more.

As for hardship, you folks volunteer for this and you are paid handsomely — a lot more than this five-year veteran of the '60s was.

The military aviation safety record is dismal. The proposed expansion area is not unpopulated. A "ballistic" pilotless F-16 or A-10 has no conscience; it will land where the laws of nature put it. In the case of a mid-air collision, the civilian pilot and passengers will die; the fighter pilot will either eject or fly home.

Write to your representative and Congress people to stop this now.

HOWARD RAND

11007 McArthur Road *A big accident is going
to happen*



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. and Mrs. John Warner
1139 West State Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Warner

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have forwarded your letter to the appropriate action office so that your comments may be considered in the Final EIS. In your letter, you expressed concern about the safety of our operations. Let us assure you that safety is of paramount importance to the Guard. The Guard has established a 1-800 number and other measures that will be implemented if the proposed expansion goes forward. These measures are designed to enhance safety by ensuring civilian pilots are informed about Guard activities to the maximum extent possible. In addition, our pilots must comply with Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) prescribing minimum distances and altitudes from obstructions, people, and population. The Guard will continue to ensure that its aircrews are aware of and adhere to all rules and regulations governing flight operations. Finally, the Guard employs a comprehensive program of evaluation or "check rides," recurring refresher training, simulator training, and pre- and post-flight mission briefings as part of its operational safety program.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a large, stylized, diamond-shaped graphic element.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

MARSHFIELD CLINIC

October 27, 1997

Harry A. Knudsen, Jr., Chief
Planning Branch
Air National Guard Environmental Division
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5157

Dear Mr. Knudsen:

Both as a member of the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MACCI) Board of Directors and a representative of Marshfield Clinic, I wish to officially go on record opposing the expansion of the Hardwood Air-to-Surface Gunnery Range and Associated Airspace Actions. As a member of the medical community, this expansion would affect the safety of the crew and passengers of the Spirit of Marshfield medical emergency helicopter based at Marshfield St. Joseph's Hospital. This service is a regional medical emergency air transport system which has a very successful safety record. We wish to minimize danger to our patients, the medical personnel and flight crew created by expansion. In addition, Marshfield Clinic serves many Wisconsin rural communities by transporting medical specialists to them from the Marshfield airport. The expansion would negatively affect flights at the Marshfield airport.

We do recognize the importance of military readiness, and the need to acknowledge our national defense needs. At the same time, we are requesting an evaluation of the other seven options outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement.

I will not go into a detailed discussion of other concerns expressed by the MACCI Board. Those concerns have been expressed to you in a separate mailing from Ms. Barb Fleisner, MACCI's Executive Director.

Please feel free to call on me if you have further questions about our concerns.

Sincerely,



ROBERT J. DE VITA
Executive Director

RDV:mb



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Robert J. DeVita
Executive Director
Marshfield Clinic
1000 North Oak Avenue
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449-5777

Dear Mr. DeVita

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Let us assure you that the Guard has taken and will continue to take measures to ensure safety for all aircraft. The Guard has established a 1-800 number and other measures that will be implemented if the proposed expansion goes forward. These measures are designed to maximize safety by ensuring civilian pilots are informed about Guard activities to the maximum extent possible. They should also ensure that emergency medical flights are able to safely traverse military training airspace. Discussions with the medical emergency services organization have taken place and will continue so that this valuable service is not impeded by military aircraft operations. Finally, the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range does not involve expanding laterally any existing airspace other than the restricted area directly associated with the range. Therefore, we anticipate no impact on the local airport serving Marshfield. Ingress and egress will continue as it exists today.

We hope this information is helpful. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have forwarded your comments to the appropriate action office so that they may be considered in the Final EIS.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Marilee Greene
8285 First Street
Pittsville, WI 54466

17 NOV -3 PM 3:34

October 25, 1997

AIR NATIONAL GUARD RE. HARDWOOD RANGE EXPANSION

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to voice my concerns and objections to the expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range.

Living and working in and around the proposed expansion area makes me more than just a concerned county citizen, but rather someone who will be directly affected by the decision.

One of my concerns is that of loss of tax dollars to our county. The expansion will be removing at least one and possibly more productive and thus tax paying cranberry marshes from our tax roles. It is also proposing to replace lost county recreational lands in the expansion area by purchasing private lands in the Cary Bluff area which will also incur a loss of dollars to our county. We as a county will not reap any tax benefits in return.

Working on many cranberry marshes weekly in my summer job as a cranberry crop scout, I have spent plenty of time listening to the noise of the practice flights. Your EIS addresses this issue in numbers-in reality the sound is so loud that one can not engage in a normal conversation outdoors when the planes are overhead - some making several circles of the area before departing. With the increased flights, this irritation and possible detriment to our hearing will only increase.

With the expansion, the flight area will also expand, extending the areas which will be subjected to this noise. The EIS states an increase of almost 1/3 in the Pittsville area. (A community where many people are shift workers and sleep during daytime hours. Many of whom will be awakened by this increase in noise.)

I also am concerned about the restrictions of the Spirit of Marshfield flights. In our remote areas this long awaited service saves many precious minutes in saving some ones life. If they are prevented from flying through or need to fly around, much time may be wasted.

There are also the environmental concerns regarding endangered and threatened wildlife in the expansion area, along with the concerns of the effects of increased noise levels on wildlife and domestic animals in the flight area. I had a farmer friend who several years ago had cattle spooked by low flying planes during practice flights. This was in a area north of Pittsville, several miles from the bombing range.

There is also the remote possibility of accidental plane crashes. I know statistically it is a remote possibility-but a concern never-the-less. Along with remote possibilities is the possibility of Central Wisconsin becoming a military target should there ever be a major war. Neither possibility is something I am comfortable with.

We live in a nice, quiet community with many natural resources available to us. We are also in a fairly populated county with room for expansion and increased tax base. I feel the expansion of the range will only limit our attractiveness to others and definitely affect our quality of life. WE DON'T WANT IT HERE!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marilee Greene

Mrs. Marilee Greene



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mrs. Marilee Greene
8285 First Street
Pittsville, Wisconsin 54466

Dear Mrs. Greene

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. The Guard is currently drafting the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion. The issues and concerns you and other citizens raised during the public comment period about potential impacts to the environment and local economy and the results of consultations with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on endangered and threatened species issues will be addressed in the Final EIS. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the EIS, we have forwarded your letter to the appropriate action office so that it may be considered in the Final EIS. You may request and receive a copy of the Final EIS when it becomes available.

You have also relayed certain concerns you have about the safety of our operations in the area. Let us assure you that safety is of paramount importance to the Guard. The Guard has established a 1-800 number and other measures that will be implemented if the proposed expansion goes forward. These measures are designed to enhance safety by ensuring civilian pilots are informed about Guard activities to the maximum extent possible. They should also ensure that emergency medical flights are able to safely traverse military training airspace. Discussions with the medical emergency services organization have taken place and will continue so that this valuable service is not impeded by military aircraft operations. In addition, our pilots must comply with Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) prescribing minimum

distances and altitudes from obstructions, people, and population. The Guard will continue to ensure that its aircrews are aware of and adhere to all rules and regulations governing flight operations. Finally, the Guard employs a comprehensive program of evaluation or "check rides," recurring refresher training, simulator training, and pre- and post-flight mission briefings as part of its operational safety program.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

11-4-97

TO: US. SEN. HERBERT ROMAN; 45

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY EXPANSION OF THE HARD WOOD BOMBING RANGE.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. IT IS (EIS) VAGUE AND CONTRADICTIVE THE COMPUTER NOISE AVERAGING IS A JOKE. IN REALITY WE HEAR NOISE LEVELS WHEN AIRCRAFT ARE FLYING, WHICH IS VERY LOUD (UNBEARABLE). WHEN THE AIRCRAFT ARE NOT FLYING WE DO NOT HEAR THEM. WE NEVER HEAR A COMPUTER NOISE AVERAGE.

THE DRAFT EIS STATES THE EXPANSION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON WILDLIFE. I STRONGLY DISAGREE I HAVE WITNESSED WILDLIFE AND MY HUNTING DOG RUN AND HIDE WHEN AIRCRAFT FLY OVER MY PROPERTY WHICH IS ONE QUARTER OF A MILE TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING HARD WOOD BOMBING RANGE.

THE DRAFT EIS STATES THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY NEGATIVE SOCIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN BEINGS. I STRONGLY DISAGREE. ENTIRE FAMILIES WILL BE DISPLACED IF THE HARDWOOD RANGE IS EXPANDED. IT IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING WITHIN THREE MILES OF THE RANGE WHEN AIRCRAFT ARE USING IT.

PAGE 2 of 2

11-4-97

I HAVE A WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS.
MY DAUGHTERS ARE SO TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED
BY THE AIRCRAFT NOISE FROM THE HARDWOOD
RANGE THAT THEY CRY. THIS IN MY MIND IS
ABOUT AS NEGATIVE AS IT COULD BE.

I AM OPPOSED TO THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD
OR THE AIR FORCE TAKING POSSESSION OR CONTROL
OF ANY COUNTY FOREST LAND FOR THE PURPOSE
OF BOMBING IT OR USING IT AS A BUFFER ZONE.

COUNTY FOREST LAND BELONGS TO WE THE
TAXPAYERS. PERHAPS THE MILITARY IS FORGETTING
WHO PAYS THEIR WAY, IT IS WE THE TAXPAYERS
WHO OPPOSE THE HARDWOOD RANGE AND ANY EXPANSION
OF IT!

SINCERELY

David J. Ginter

DAVID J. GINTER
3909 SEARLES RD.
WI. RAPIDS, WI. 54495



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. David J. Ginter
3909 Searles Road
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495

Dear Mr. Ginter

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. We have noted the issues and concerns you raised about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because you voiced your concerns prior to the close of the public comment period for the Draft EIS, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate office for further action. The Guard is currently formulating responses to the issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period. These responses will be contained in the forthcoming Final EIS. We will ensure that you are on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Final EIS. If you have any further questions upon your review of these materials, please contact the Program Manager for the EIS at the following address:

Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

12001 Cty. Rd. Z
Nekoosa, WI 54457
November 4, 1997

97 NOV 12 AM 11:44

U.S. Sen. Herbert Kohl
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Kohl,

I'm writing you in regard to the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range near Nekoosa Wisconsin. As a Wood county resident who resides near this practice range, I urgently request your participation. I along with a large number of citizens am opposed to this expansion. I do not feel the military has shown any justification for this project. The National Guard wishes to take 7,100 acres of publicly and privately owned land and add it to their existing 7,900 acres. The federal government already owns 75,000 undeveloped acres of land right near the range in Juneau County. Why should they buy more land in Wood County? Are we being told the whole story, or do they have some hidden agenda? With the downsizing of the military and base closures this is hypocritical. Certainly there must be better options to consider. I would find it hard to believe that there are no bombing ranges available in less populated areas.

This land in jeopardy is utilized by many people. Uses include berry picking, hunting, snowmobiling, bird watching, etc. This land is also home to several species of animals. I do not want to see this land polluted with debris from ammunition or targets. They currently practice on old Jeeps and oil tanks. What happens to the residue from the engine oil and anti-freeze? We do not need to destroy any more of our natural resources or habitat.

We all understand the need for our military defense, but this appears to stretch beyond the necessary. Please help us in our fight to preserve our ever diminishing lands.

Thank you,



Thomas J. Mask

Ps. During our evening meal we had to endure the rumble of jet engines, which is continuing as I write this letter.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Thomas J. Mask
12001 County Road Z
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

Dear Mr. Mask

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion. Your concerns about the need for the proposed expansion and possible impacts to the environment will be fully addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Generally speaking, however, the Guard needs the Hardwood Range expansion in order to effectively train aircrews on tactics developed for aircraft stationed in the region and deployed to Volk Field. As to recreational opportunities, the Guard anticipates little or no adverse impact to recreational use of lands in the area of the proposed expansion. Finally, the Guard conducts its training on targets only after engine oil and anti-freeze are removed from the target vehicles.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 4, 1997

97 NOV -7 AM 11:51

Honorable Senator Herb Kohl :

This letter is written to urge your opposition to the proposed Hardwood Bombing Range expansion in Wood County Wisconsin. There are many reasons to oppose this expansion including:

1. Questionable spending justification
2. Nearly unanimous opposition by neighbors, land users and environmentalists
3. Severely lacking environmental impact studies (based on newspaper reports)
4. Availability of acceptable cost effective options.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to the Air National Guard with my reason for opposition. While some of my reasons are selfish, I believe that opposing the expansion is the right thing to do for Wisconsin and America.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. Peterson

November 4, 1997

Program Manager
Hardwood EIS Environmental Division
Air National Guard

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to urge to reconsider the expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range in Wood County Wisconsin. As a regular user of the land in the proposed expansion area, I stand to lose a significant source of recreation as does my family. While my reasons for opposing this expansion appear selfish, they are shared by virtually all private landowners involved as well as the county board. With such unanimous opposition from the environmentalists, Indian tribes, recreational users and the surrounding communities, would it not be smarter to expand the training opportunities in areas where the federal government owns the land and is welcomed by its neighbors?

Sincerely,


Daniel J. Peterson

cc Sen. Russ Feingold WI
Sen. Herb Kohl WI



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Daniel J. Peterson
608 Nicolet Boulevard
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

Dear Mr. Peterson

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. Your concerns about possible impacts on recreation will be fully addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, the Guard anticipates little or no adverse impact to recreational use of lands in the area of the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 6, 1997

Bruce Barrett MD PhD
2038 Irwin Place
Madison WI 53713

Col. Kent Adams 07 NOV 31 AM 10:19
Program Manager - Hardwood Range EIS
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fetchet Ave
Andrews AFB MD 20762-5157

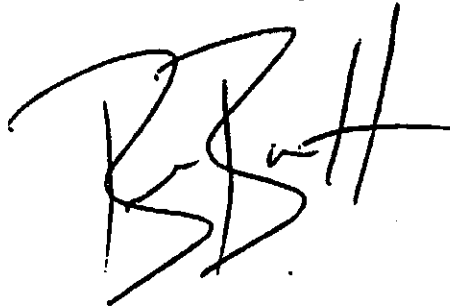
Dear Sir:

I am utterly amazed. Is it true that the military wants to condemn county forests in Wisconsin for use as a bombing range?

If so, and if this goes beyond the planning stage, you can count on vocal, visible and widespread resistance. I expect that editorials, petitions and lawsuits will be complemented by protests, demonstrations, and civil disobedience of the most active sort. I personally will help see to it that the noses of the responsible parties be rubbed in the most egregious material imaginable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of Bruce Barrett, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CC ✓ Herb Kohl
Russ Feingold
T. Thompson
Ed Garvey



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Dr. Bruce Barrett
2038 Irwin Place
Madison, Wisconsin 53713

Dear Dr. Barrett

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust this information is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



SAVINGS BANK

November 6, 1997

Program Manager, Hardwood EIS
Environmental Division
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

Dear Sir or Madam:

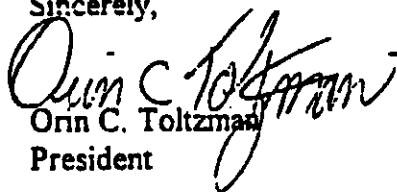
I am writing this letter to oppose the intended expansion of the Hardwood Air-To-Surface Gunnery Range in Wood County, Wisconsin.

Although I am very much in agreement that we need a strong, well prepared military, I am not sure expansion in Central Wisconsin is the place to do so. With the Pentagon and the Federal Base Closure Commission closing bases throughout the country, I would think one of these bases would be an ideal candidate.

The Central Wisconsin area is trying to attract industry to our area and the expansion of this range would have a negative impact on general aviation and air commerce at the Marshfield Municipal Airport, along with the emergency helicopter flights of the Spirit of Marshfield, based at St. Joseph's Hospital. If expansion is an absolute necessity, I would suggest to expand in Juneau County where the Federal Government owns 75,000 acres of undeveloped land.

In closing, I ask that you reconsider the expansion of the Hardwood Range in Wood County for the economic and social benefit of the Marshfield area.

Sincerely,


Orin C. Toltzman
President

OCT/ge



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

March 13, 1998

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Orin C. Toltzman
President
Marshfield Savings Bank
Post Office Box 608
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mr. Toltzman

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. The proposed action for the Hardwood Range expansion does not involve expanding laterally any existing airspace other than the restricted area directly associated with the range. Therefore, we anticipate no impact on the local airport serving Marshfield. Ingress and egress will continue as it exists today. Also, coordination with the medical emergency services organization is ongoing to ensure this valuable service is not impeded by military aircraft operations.

We trust this information is helpful. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have forwarded your comments to the appropriate action office so that they may be considered in the Final EIS.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Author: Eileen Seeger at KOHL-MILWAUKEE
Date: 11/6/97 11:22 AM
Priority: Normal
TO: Mike Weiss at KOHL-DC
Subject: pc

----- Message Contents ----- 87 NOV -7 PM 4:42

-She has concerns about water contamination, wild life and how it will be effected and increased air traffic.

RE: Prosed Expansion of Hardwood Bombing range.

HK: Please keep this bombing range from expanding.

Susan Presser
Route 2, Box 69
Gays Mills, WI 54631
608-872-2109



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Susan Presser
Route 2 Box 69
Gays Mills, Wisconsin 54631

Dear Ms. Presser

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attached is a
copy of a
letter I forwarded
to the Air National

Guard

I wish to also
express my feelings
to you and hope
you will do
everything in your
power to prevent the
expansion of the
Hardwood Bombing
Range.

Mrs. Rick Greene

Nov. 9, 1997
1081 2nd. St.
Port Edwards, WI 54469

97 NOV 17 10:49

Senator Kohl
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl,
Here I am again, writing to ask you to help in stopping the Wisconsin ANG's plan to expand the Hardwood Bombing Range into Wood County Forest land.

It will be almost impossible for the Wood County Board to finance and find 7,137 acres of forest and private land (975 acres) in Wood County to replace what the ANG wants to take out for their proposed expansion of the Hardwood Range.

I am taking the following information from the ANG's DEIS of Aug. 1997. On pages 2-24 to 2-28 you'll find a discussion of NOISE. Which is considered to "be one of the most important factors addressed in the analyses associated with this EIS. They use two measures, the Ldnmrdb and the SEL 45db, 65db. You can see here how complicated they measure noise levels.

They use computer modeling programs for noise measurements. 27 ground locations were modeled. The results are summarized in two charts on pages 2-26 and 2-27.

All of the numbers are below 90db. How can this be when we have all heard the noise of low flying jets as they fly into and out of the Hardwood Range?

They have averaged the daily night and day noises. It is the way they figure but it is not the way we in Wood County will hear the noise of more than 4,000 flights into and out of Hardwood.

On page 2-27 in the 3rd paragraph we read..."The relative rarity of individual noise events supports the conclusion that there would be no significant noise impact from aircraft operations either in the MOAs or at the Hardwood Range."

An "individual noise event" has to mean an individual aircraft coming in on a bombing and or strafing run. This DEIS is not an honest measure of the noise levels.

Especially when the ANG will lower and higher the altitudes they now use when they move to an expanded range.

I have been in the Sandhill Wildlife Refuge when ANG jet planes have come over at tree top level and the ground shakes with the noise level. You want to lay down and cover your body until it goes away.

There are other parts of the ANG's DEIS that are confusing with charts and words that only support their plan to take over irreplaceable Wood County land.

Would you consider forwarding my letter to: Program Manager, Hardwood EIS, Environmental Div. Air National Guard Readiness Center /CEVP, 3500 Fetchet Ave., Andrews AFB MD 20762-5157. We need to get the word to them soon.

Sincerely,

Patricia Buehler

Thank you for your support.

Patricia Buehler



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Patricia Buehler
1081 2nd Street
Port Edwards, Wisconsin 54469

Dear Ms. Buehler

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. We have noted your concerns about possible noise impacts associated with the proposal. Your comments are well taken. Noise volumes will increase slightly in most areas surrounding the range and proposed expansion area. However, this increase will not exceed health standards and, in most cases, will be so small that it will not be detected by persons on the ground. Because you voiced your concerns about noise and other potential impacts prior to the close of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), your letter will be forwarded to the appropriate office for further action. The Guard is currently formulating responses to the issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period. These responses will be contained in the forthcoming Final EIS. We will ensure that you are on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Final EIS. If you have any further questions upon your review of these materials, please contact the Program Manager for the EIS at the following address:

Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bull, III', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

cc.: Russ Fairgld
Herb Kohl
Dave Obey
Don Harsmohel
Wood County Board

89DCCK: M1 20-12
5:00 PM 12
1452 BATTSMAN ROAD
D315 BABCOCK, WI 54413

11-10-97

Dear Governor Thompson,

I would like to give you my view of proposed Hardwood
Air to Ground Gunnery Range Expansion into Wood County, WI.
I am opposed to this expansion. I can not see the
people of this state losing 975 acres of private own Land
and over 6,000 acres of Wood County Forest Land. As you
know the population in the last 50 yrs. has increased by
over 1.5 million people. We need Lose this land, we need ALL
available land for the people.
I request that you take a serious look at and oppose
this expansion. Explain the problems of this Lose to the
federal government. Sincerely
Thanking you.

Dale ~~Gray~~ Gray
2475 Batterman Road
P.O. Box 13 1-112
Babcock, WI 54413

P.S. Sent a comment sheet
before, but have heard nothing
from you. Dale R. Gray



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Dale Gray
7475 Batterman Road
Post Office Box 13
Babcock, Wisconsin 54413

Dear Mr. Gray

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Mr. Thompson

I believe it is time for the Federal Government to stop taking
of Private or County owned Land for defense training. The
Federal government owns enough land to do their training on.
With more people in the country we need all the Private lands.
We also need not lose 6,000 acres of Wood County Forest for
Hardwood Range Expansion. We need these acres for the people
to enjoy out of doors recreation. Therefore I oppose Hardwood Range
Expansion, and ask for your opposition of same.

Thank you,
Patricia Gray

Patricia Gray
7475 Batterman Road
P.O. Box 13
Babcock, WI 54413

cc: Russ Feingold
Herb Kohl
Dane Obey
Don Harnahl
Wood County Board.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Patricia Gray
7475 Batterman Road
Post Office Box 13
Babcock, Wisconsin 54413

Dear Ms. Gray

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a circular stamp.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 12, 1997

97 NOV 17 PM 3:46

U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4903

Dear Senator Kohl:

"Small airplane run over by military jet". Expect to read this headline if we expand the Hardwood Range.

I have been a commercial pilot in the Central Wisconsin area for thirty years. Never have I observed so many low flying military aircraft as I have in the last few years. By low flying, I mean two to three hundred feet over Marshfield and Neillsville. The military cannot seem to keep their aircraft where they are supposed to be. Enlarging the area will only make things even more unsafe.

Another example of use of normal airspace by the military was observed again on Saturday, October 18, 1997. I was doing flight training at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, when four C-130's started making approaches into one of the only full instrument runways in our area. To make matters even worse, the C-130's then decided to hold in an area well known for sky diving.

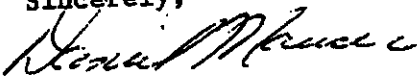
Taking more land and saying it is for military training is ludicrous. The military can go where and when it wants. So the question that I have is "what about safety?"

There is also the question, "what effect will this range have on jet arrivals into Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis, which now go around the restricted areas?"

In conclusion, there is no reason to expand the range. The military will use what they need. The United States has enough restricted areas. Let us just make better use of the ones that we have.

I really believe that there will be a jet running over a civilian aircraft (accident) if the expanded range becomes a reality. I can only hope and pray that it is not one of the five pilots in this family.

Sincerely,



Daniel Maurer
410 N. Meadow Lane
Marshfield, WI 54449



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Daniel Maurer
410 North Meadow Lane
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Mr. Maurer

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have forwarded your letter to the appropriate action office so that your comments may be considered in the Final EIS. In your letter, you expressed concern about the safety of our operations. Let us assure you that safety is of paramount importance to the Guard. The Guard has established a 1-800 number and other measures that will be implemented if the proposed expansion goes forward. These measures are designed to enhance safety by ensuring civilian pilots are informed about Guard activities to the maximum extent possible. In addition, our pilots must comply with Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) prescribing minimum distances and altitudes from obstructions, people, and population. The Guard will continue to ensure that its aircrews are aware of and adhere to all rules and regulations governing flight operations. Finally, the Guard employs a comprehensive program of evaluation or "check rides," recurring refresher training, simulator training, and pre- and post-flight mission briefings as part of its operational safety program.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Author: UserMad at KOHL-MADISON
Date: 11/12/97 3:40 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: Mike Weiss at KOHL-DC
Subject: pc

97 NOV 13 PM 5:16
----- Message Contents -----

Matthew Marty
2518 East Mifflin
Madison, WI 53704

Mr. Marty wants Senator Kohl to speak out AGAINST the WI International
Guard acquiring 7000 acres in Wood County which will used for a
pratice bombing range.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Matthew Marty
2518 East Mifflin
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Dear Mr. Marty

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



CPAs • CONSULTANTS • ADVISORS

Delivering innovative business solutions

97 NOV 24 PM 3:25

503 South Cherry Avenue
PO Box 960
Marshfield, WI 54449-0960
715-387-3710
Fax: 715-389-2480

November 12, 1997

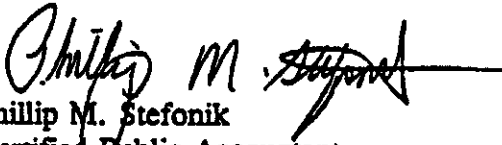
Program Manager, Hardwood EIS
Environmental Division
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fetcher Ave.
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5157

RE: Hardwood Air Expansion

This letter is written to state my opposition to expansion of the Hardwood Air to Surface Gunnery Range. As a CPA and member of our community Industrial Park Authority I am very involved in the business community and the economic health of the community. Any actions that will restrict our access to our local airport would have a detrimental impact on attracting new business as well as retaining and expanding our existing business base.

The Marshfield community is a major hub of medical services and this expansion could have a negative impact on the ability of the medical helicopter transports to serve our area. Therefore I believe expansion of this Hardwood Range should not be done at this time.

Sincerely,


Phillip M. Stefoni
Certified Public Accountant

PMS:lmh



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Phillip M. Stefoniak
503 South Cherry Avenue
Post Office Box 960
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449-0960

Dear Mr. Stefoniak

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. The proposed action for the Hardwood Range expansion does not involve expanding laterally any existing airspace other than the restricted area directly associated with the range. Therefore, we anticipate no impact on the local airport serving Marshfield. Ingress and egress will continue as it exists today. Also, coordination with the medical emergency services organization is ongoing to ensure this valuable service is not impeded by military aircraft operations.

We trust this information is helpful. Because you submitted your comments prior to the close of the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have forwarded your comments to the appropriate action office so that they may be considered in the Final EIS.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

John C. Wigand

797 Thomas Drive
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590-2377

Phone 608-837-9238

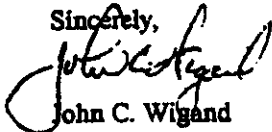
12 Nov 97

Senator Herb Kohl
14 W. Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Kohl:

Please find attached a letter sent to the Program Manager at Andrews AFB regarding the proposed plans for expansion of the practice bombing range in Wood County. I want you to know of my feelings regarding this issue and respectfully request that you join your constituents in voicing your opinion regarding this issue. I recognize that this is one of many important issues facing our state currently... but as you may be aware, there is a hearing scheduled for Nov 21st. I hope you will be able to find time from the burdens of your schedule to comment and help put a stop to the ludicrous plans of the Air National Guard and the Air Force.

Sincerely,


John C. Wigand

7 Nov 17 PM 12:19

Phone 608-837-9238

12 Nov 97

Program Manager Hardwood E.I.S.
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fechet Ave.
Andrews AFB, MD. 20760-5157

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to inform you of my disgust to learn of the tactics employed by the Air National Guard regarding the so called acquisition of public lands in Wood County, Wisconsin. The condemnation of public property and the manipulation of statistics represents an outrage and continues the litany of abuses historically perpetrated by all branches of the military in furthering its own agenda. These kinds of policy decisions always reflect the myopic perspective of a few misguided individuals, irrespective of true need and the desires and wishes of the people affected by policy.

I wish to go on record as opposed to the expansion of the low level flight plan for Wood County or any other site either inside or outside the borders of the state of Wisconsin. I plan on sharing my sentiment with my elected officials and others and asking them to look into and speak to this issue as well.

Sincerely,

John C. Wigand



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. John C. Wigand
14 West Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Wigand

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust this information is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

97 NOV 17 PM 12:33
November 13, 1997

Mr. Herbert Kohl, Senator
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

Dear Mr. Kohl:

Re: Proposed Hardwood Bombing Range Expansion in South Wood County

The Nekoosa Common Council has gone on record as **opposing** the proposed expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range into South Wood County, Wisconsin.

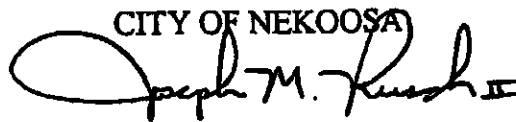
A map of the proposed expansion has been enclosed. This map was prepared by the Air National Guard Bureau located at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland

We realize the critical role Military Airpower plays in the protection of domestic and foreign interests of the United States; however, this military facility should remain in Juneau County, Wisconsin.

Federally owned land in Juneau County is available near the existing Hardwood Range which would meet the Federal Government's needs in assuring the future of this facility as well as the economic benefits the communities of Mauston, Necedah, New Lisbon, and Camp Douglas receive from the Military facilities located in that region of Wisconsin.

Your efforts to keep this facility from expanding into South Wood County would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

CITY OF NEKOOSA

Joseph M. Rusch II
City Clerk

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Joseph M. Rusch, II
City Clerk
City of Nekoosa
951 Market Street
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

Dear Mr. Rusch

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

The Honorable Herb Kohl

97 NOV 17 PM 12:12

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range Expansion and associated airspace actions.

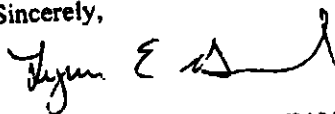
The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs.

I am a taxpayer. I want our government to operate as cost effectively as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform over 35% of the missions with 18% of the people and only 6% of the Air Force Budget. They are training more intensely then ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. Increasing reliance on the Guard for the overseas operations makes local training even more important as it helps reduce the need to take traditional members out of the work force for training periods to other installations. Their commitment is enormous and deserves our support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas of the world today. In the past year alone, the 185th Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa spent month long rotations in the skies over northern Iraq. This calendar year, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing has and will serve two rotations enforcing United Nations sanctions in the skies over Iraq. Aircrews train to perform these real world mission at Hardwood range and in the Volk Field managed airspace.

I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and Women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Sincerely,



Lynn E. Howard, MAJ, WIANG
Deputy Commander, 115th Aircraft Generation Squadron



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Major Lynn E. Howard
Wisconsin Air National Guard
5383-410 Mariner's Cove Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Dear Major Howard

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 14th. 1997

Dear Representative Schneider:

I am opposed to the expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range in Juneau and Wood counties. There are several reasons for this:

1. In years past while hunting around the range in Wood, Juneau, Clark, and Jackson counties, the noise level from planes bombing was so deafening that I couldn't even hear a bird flush. How bad will it get with all the extra flights that they want? Also, how much extra stress will this put on wildlife, as well on the people living in these areas?
2. With the guards taking the extra 6,162 acres of land, this will take-away from the public who use this land for hunting, sight-seeing, berry picking, and many more uses. Where will this land be replaced? It simply cannot!!
3. As of late there have been many Military planes crashing. With all the extra flights at the range this will have the potential of more crashes in this area, making it more dangerous for the people living in the surrounding areas. Over 2,000 sorters per year with flights as low as 300 feet will be included in the new training sorts.
4. Air and water quality are also a concern. What extra strain will this put on our wildlife, such as migratory birds, deer, coon, partridge, squirrel, rabbits, and many others?
5. What impact will this have on the Sandhill Wildlife area, Meadow Valley, and the Necedah Wildlife Refuge areas?
6. I am also concerned that we are not getting the help that we want from our State Representatives that we need. It seems to me that the A.N.G. has been trying to sway our representatives to their side, by giving them rides in their fighter jets. Would they also be willing to give the public these same opportunities?
7. What about the private lands they want - Cranberry Growers, Tree Farmers, and Sportsmen, etc.? I'm not very sure that they want their lands taken from them.
8. There are only a few that favor the Hardwood expansion, against many that don't want it. It seems to me that the A.N.G. is going to ram this down the public's throat, whether they like it or not!

I am not against the A.N.G. and think that the training is a vital part in protecting our country. There are alternatives to the expansion of the Hardwood Range. Many Airforce Bases have been closed in the past, making them available for use. There are many areas in the country that are not populated and not in use, like this area currently is. Why is the A.N. G. so intent on this area that they will go to any lengths to get what they want, against all of the people that don't want it?

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns on this issue. Any consideration concerning the Hardwood Expansion would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Engel
12130 52nd Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
State Representative

72nd Assembly District

Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-0215
Fax: (608) 266-8955
Toll-free: 1-888-529-0072
Email: Rep.Schneider@legis.state.wi.us

Home:

3820 Southbrook Lane
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 423-1223



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

November 20, 1997

Members:

Committee on Assembly Organization
Committee on Education
Educational Communications Board
Committee on Government Operations
Joint Committee on Information Policy
Council on Information Technology
Joint Legislative Council
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
Committee on Rules
Committee on Rural Affairs
State Capitol and Executive Residence Board
Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions
Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
National Conference of State Legislatures
Council of State Governments

Mr. Robert F. Engel
12130 52nd Street, S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dear Mr. Engel:

Thank you for your recent letter urging me to vote against the Hardwood Range Expansion.

I understand your concerns in this very important matter. However, this is an issue that is before Congress and I will not have an opportunity to vote on it. I am taking the liberty of forwarding your letter to U. S. Senator Herb Kohl so that he will be aware of your views on this issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. Hearing from concerned citizens is always helpful to me as a legislator, so please don't hesitate to contact me whenever issues of special concern to you are before the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
Assistant Minority Leader

mep/p

cc: Senator Herb Kohl



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

March 13, 1998

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Robert F. Engel
12130 52nd Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Dear Mr. Engel

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. We have noted the issues and concerns you raised about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because you voiced your concerns prior to the close of the public comment period for the EIS, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate office for further action. The Guard is currently formulating responses to the issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period. These responses will be contained in the forthcoming Final EIS. We will ensure that you are on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Final EIS. If you have any further questions upon your review of these materials, please contact the Program Manager of the EIS at the address listed below:

Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 15, 1997

State Rep. Marlin Schneider
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Marlin,

I am writing this to express my OPPOSITION to the expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range.

The expansion is unnecessary. Use other existing ranges or bases or the 75,000 acres the government owns in Juneau County. From the figures I've read, an additional 7100 acres will not be enough for multiple approaches. If 22,400 acres is needed, and 7929 acres is being used now, by adding 7137 Wood County acres, the total is 15,066 acres. Therefore there is a shortage of 7334 acres. Now what? Take another 7334 acres from whom?

It is a waste of taxpayer's dollars to close some military facilities while spending more money to expand the range here, especially in light of a large amount of public opposition.

Consolidated Papers Inc. would not purchase timber from the range due to metal and other foreign object contamination. Losing 7137 acres is a big concern.

There will be an increase in noise to a larger area if the range is expanded.

Recreation lands will be lost and there will be an adverse environmental impact along with nesting problems for eagles, falcons, wolves, etc. The expansion could impact the Sandhill Wildlife area, Meadow Valley and Necedah Wildlife Refuge.

It appears for me: cost is high, benefit is low!

Sincerely,

Joan Allen

Joan Allen
436 Brentwood Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Please do what you can to oppose this expansion.

November 15, 1997

Program Manager
Hardware EIS
Environmental Division
Air National Guard Readiness Center/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-51577

Dear Sir:

I am writing this to express my OPPOSITION to the expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range.

Being a professional pilot, I am well aware of the vast amount of airspace and land already controlled by the armed services for training. I support training, but I strongly oppose additional land being added for this purpose. There are currently more than enough training areas available. In some parts of our country it is all but impossible to access civilian airports adjacent to these areas. The Hardwood range as it currently stands has created many serious conflicts with private and commercial aviation.

I do not believe the government should take peoples land from them without their consent, nor should the government install a facility in an area where public opposition is so strong. The government is supposed to be for the people not against them.

The expansion of the Hardwood range will have a very adverse affect on the surrounding area, it will remove badly needed recreational land, adversely effect wild life habitat, and destroy the dreams and livelihood of many landowners.

Use the existing training areas.

Sincerely,

Don Allen
436 Brentwood Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
Representative

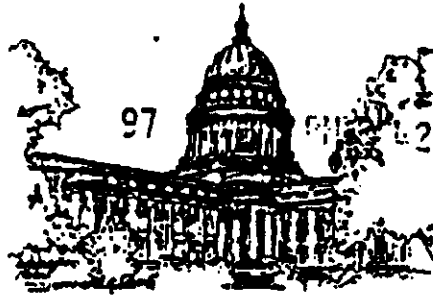
Assembly District

Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-0215
Fax: (608) 266-8955
Toll-free: 1-888-529-0072
Email: Rep.Schneider@legis.state.wi.us

Home:

3820 Southbrook Lane
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 423-1223



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

November 17, 1997

Members:
Committee on Assembly Organization
Committee on Education
Educational Communications Board
Committee on Government Operations
Joint Committee on Information Policy
Council on Information Technology
Joint Legislative Council
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
Committee on Rules
Committee on Rural Affairs
State Capitol and Executive Residence Board
Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions
Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
National Conference of State Legislatures
Council of State Governments

Mr. & Mrs. Don Allen
436 Brentwood Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Allen:

Thank you for your recent letter urging me to vote against the Hardwood Range Expansion.

I understand your concerns in this very important matter. However, this is an issue that is before Congress and I will not have an opportunity to vote on it. I am taking the liberty of forwarding your letter to U. S. Senator Herb Kohl so that he will be aware of your views on this issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. Hearing from concerned citizens is always helpful to me as a legislator, so please don't hesitate to contact me whenever issues of special concern to you are before the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
Assistant Minority Leader

mep/p

cc: Senator Herb Kohl



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Don and Joan Allen
436 Brentwood Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Allen

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. The Guard is currently drafting the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion. The issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period about the potential impacts of the proposal will be addressed in the Final EIS. You may request and receive a copy of the Final EIS when it becomes available. As to the concerns you raised about access to civilian airports, the proposed action for the Hardwood Range expansion does not involve expanding laterally any existing airspace other than the restricted area directly associated with the range. Therefore, we anticipate no impact on the local airport serving Marshfield. Ingress and egress will continue as it exists today.

We trust this information is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

309 W. Upham
Marshfield, WI 54449

97 NOV 17 PM 3:40

November 15, 1997

U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

Dear Sen. Kohl:

I oppose the proposed expansion at the existing Hardwood Air-to-Ground Bombing Range by the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and I hope you will, too.

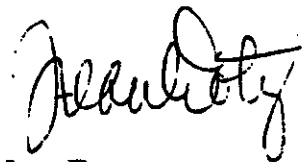
The expansion would create long-term environmental problems, and the noise from the increased bombing runs will negatively impact people nearby and along the flight routes. There are also several wildlife species in the area that are either threatened or endangered, and, reading the Air National Guard's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it's clear that very little is known about the long-term impact to these species by the expansion.

The expansion would take away 6,000-plus acres of Wood County Forest land from the citizens of Wisconsin. Thousands of people use this land every year for a host of recreational activities, and expansion of the range will mean a real loss for the people of Central Wisconsin.

Finally, I'm also worried that letting the Guard take county forest land will set a dangerous precedent. Such lands are meant for all Wisconsin citizens, yet this expansion into Wood County land could mean similar losses in the future, and it is impossible to replace these large, undeveloped tracts.

For these reasons, I hope you'll work to stop the proposed expansion at the Hardwood Range. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jean Doty



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Jean Doty
309 West Upham
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Ms. Doty

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion. Your concerns about possible impacts to recreation will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, the Guard anticipates little or no adverse impact to recreational use of lands in the area of the proposed expansion. In addition, please be advised that the Guard has consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concerning possible impacts to sensitive and endangered species. The results of this consultation will be included in the Final EIS.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a large, stylized, handwritten "S" or "B" that serves as a background for the signature.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

November 17, 1997

Program Manager, Hardwood EIS
Environmental Division
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5157

Program Manager,

Upon reviewing the DEIS I have the following comments on several issues I feel were not adequately addressed:

The assessment for the number of aircraft that will use the range is inaccurate. The actual flights exceed the assessment, therefore, how can the public be sure how many flights will be using the range? It's fact that foreign pilots train at Hardwood, why aren't the number of foreign flights mentioned? Are these flights included in the current assessment or are these flights in addition to the assessed number?

"Unavoidable adverse impacts to water resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the Hardwood Range expansion" is unacceptable. Further studies are required. The DNR and USFWS have raised questions on the wetlands issue and these concerns must be addressed.

Studies are inconclusive on contaminants and toxic materials. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection claims studies on the use of chaff are inadequate. Why hasn't more research been done on effects to humans and animals where chaff is currently being used? The fibers in chaff are asbestos-like and could have serious health impacts on humans. The fact remains that asbestos has been banned, shouldn't more research occur on the use of chaff for the same reasons asbestos was banned? Why hasn't more research been done on potential environmental, ecological and health impacts of using chaff on public, private, and tribal lands and included in the DEIS? Studies must be completed on effects chaff would have on the wetlands.

Titanium and tetrachloride a poisonous gas is toxic to humans and animals, DEIS fails to address the toxicity. At the present time, no monitoring is being conducted on the existing site, yet a small plume of contaminated ground water was discovered in 1995. How much ground water will be contaminated with the expansion? What is proposed to deal with these contaminants? Shouldn't a solution be found to control this pollution?

Why haven't Ho-Chunk issues been addressed? Such as, A Memorandum Agreement and sites surveyed for sacred sites and artifacts?

The cranberry industry is very important to Wood County and the State of Wisconsin economically. How many dollars does the cranberry industry contribute? Studies have indicated cranberries are vital to good health and a preventative for certain ailments. On-going studies relating to heart disease are encouraging for the extended use of cranberries. Shouldn't we be preserving the wetlands to produce cranberries for these very reasons? Cranberries are unique to the cold climate wetlands, therefore, those lands can't be substituted. Cranberry production and wetlands wildlife co-habitate together with no adverse affects. Why hasn't the DEIS provided more information relating to cranberries as a health product?

Wood County Board unanimously opposes the range expansion. Doesn't Wood County Board represent the people? The question was presented to the military in regards to acquiring the county land by eminent domain, and was to have been addressed in the DEIS. Why wasn't it?

The landing strip is proposed to be developed on wetlands where a high water table exists. Where will the fill come from to fill in this land? What will be the cost to develop Hardwood as currently proposed? Why wasn't a comparison between a dollar savings and a dollar cost development figure given for this entire proposal in the DEIS? Other projects offer a realistic cost projection. The real costs for this project must be addressed. Taxpayers have a right to know what these costs will be.

Aren't accidents more frequent during take off and landings? How then can it be stated that mishaps would not be significantly altered by the proposed action?

When an F-16 crashed in Strum, Wisconsin in June of 1995 it took three months and citizen contacts to Wisconsin senators to finally get the military to remove hazardous materials. How can we feel confident of efficient clean up in other incidents with a history like this? How will wetlands be affected if such an incident would occur and ground water is contaminated, especially if cleanup doesn't begin until several months after the accident?

When the DEIS concludes "no significant impacts" due to inadequate research, and some research has indicated potential problems, how can a conclusion like this be made without addressing the problem? Why isn't adequate research done to address the issue so an accurate conclusion can be made? How can a proposal such as this be developed with so many issues inadequately addressed or not addressed at all and be approved for development?

This concludes the request and questions I want addressed in the final EIS.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pauline Evans
RR1 Box 63
Viroqua, WI 54665



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Pauline Evans
RR 1 Box 63
Viroqua, Wisconsin 54665

Dear Ms. Evans

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. We have noted the issues and concerns you raised about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because you voiced your concerns prior to the close of the public comment period for the EIS, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate office for further action. The Guard is currently formulating responses to the issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period. These responses will be contained in the forthcoming Final EIS. We will ensure that you are on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Final EIS. If you have any further questions upon your review of these materials, please contact the Program Manager of the EIS at the address listed below:

Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Mr. Kohl,

I'm writing to you ^{97 NOV 26 PM 2:12} that we oppose the expansion of the Hardwood Range into Wood county.

We feel the "Impact Statement" wasn't given enough study to find out the lasting effects.

We're concerned about the environment, Safety, wildlife, extra noise and quality of life.

Many of us are employed by the local paper mills and work shift work. The extra noise would effect our sleeping patterns. We live about 20 miles from the range and when they are test bombing, the noise is unbearable.

What about our precious resources? Once it is gone, we can not get it back. Pollution? Safety? No one has given us satisfactory answers. Everything seems to have been swept under the rug.

We would think another test site could be used, one that doesn't have so much at stake.

We hope you stand behind the people of this area since the majority oppose the expansion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike & Marla Malecki
Wisconsin Rapids



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mike and Marla Maleski
9821 64th Street, South
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Maleski

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. We have noted the issues and concerns you raised about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because you voiced your concerns prior to the close of the public comment period for the EIS, your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate office for further action. The Guard is currently formulating responses to the issues you and other citizens raised during the public comment period. These responses will be contained in the forthcoming Final EIS. We will ensure that you are on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Final EIS. If you have any further questions upon your review of these materials, please contact the Program Manager of the EIS at the address listed below:

Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



11-20-97

Dear Mr. Schneider,
I'm writing to you to tell you that we
oppose the expansion of the Hardwood range
into Wood County.

We feel the "Impact Statement" wasn't given
enough study to find out the lasting effects.

We're concerned about the environment, Safety
wildlife, extra noise and quality of life.

Many of us are employed by the local paper
mills and work shift work. The extra noise
would effect our sleeping patterns. We live
about 20 miles from the range and when
they are test bombing the noise is unbearable.

What about our precious resources? Once it is
gone we can not get it back. Pollution? Safety

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Everything seems to be swept under the rug.

We would think another test site
could be used. One that doesn't have so much
at stake.

We hope you stand behind the people of
this area since the majority oppose the
expansion.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Mike + Marla Maleski
Wisconsin Rapids

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
State Representative

72nd Assembly District

Office:

State Capitol

P.O. Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-0215

Fax: (608) 266-8955

Toll-free: 1-888-529-0072

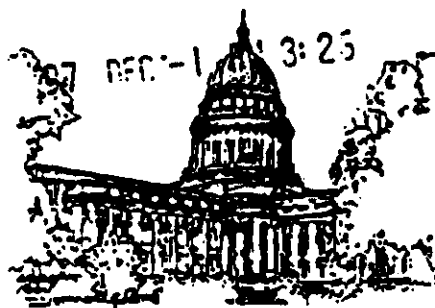
Email: Rep.Schneider@legis.state.wi.us

Home:

3820 Southbrook Lane

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

(715) 423-1223



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

November 25, 1997

Member:

Committee on Assembly Organization

Committee on Education

Educational Communications Board

Committee on Government Operations

Joint Committee on Information Policy

Council on Information Technology

Joint Legislative Council

Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems

Committee on Rules

Committee on Rural Affairs

State Capitol and Executive Residence Board

Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions

Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

National Conference of State Legislatures

Council of State Governments

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Maleski
9821 64th Street, S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Maleski:

Thank you for your recent letter urging me to vote against the Hardwood Range Expansion.

I understand your concerns in this very important matter. However, this is an issue that is before Congress and I will not have an opportunity to vote on it. I am taking the liberty of forwarding your letter to U. S. Senator Herb Kohl so that he will be aware of your views on this issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. Hearing from concerned citizens is always helpful to me as a legislator, so please don't hesitate to contact me whenever issues of special concern to you are before the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER
Assistant Minority Leader

mep/p

cc: Senator Herb Kohl



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mike and Marla Maleski
9821 64th Street, South
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Maleski

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

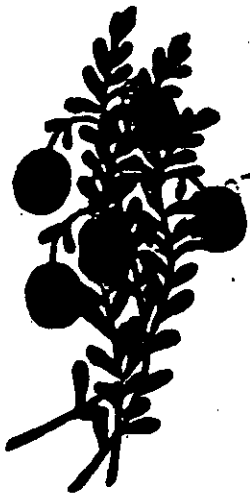
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Program Manager, Hardwood Range Expansion
ANG/CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762-5157

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



R.S. BRAZEAU, INC.
Glacial Lake Cranberries®

P.O. Box 903, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54495-0903
(715) 887-4161 / Fax (715) 887-2090

November 21, 1997

Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Russ Feingold
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Faxed: 608-264-5473

Faxed: 608-828-1203

Re: Hardwood Range Expansion

Dear Senators:

This letter is to help summarize the significant opposition to the Hardwood Range Expansion. The EIS blatantly disregards the original intent of existing laws and corresponding rules, e.g. County Forest Law, Wetland Protection, and Wildlife Management. This neglect makes our laws worthless and cultivates a total lack of trust in our government! A long range plan consolidating military facilities on already dedicated military and/or Federal lands would show prudent fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship and would help restore faith in our government system!

It is unfathomable to think that the Air National Guard and the inevitable decisions makers could even consider expanding the Hardwood Range after we have heard and seen unanimous opposition from the Wood County Board of Supervisors, the Wisconsin Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Ho-Chunk Nation, former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Central Labor Council of Wisconsin Rapids and Vicinity, the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, the Town of Cranmoor, the Common Council of the City of Wisconsin Rapids, Citizens Opposed to Range Expansion (CORE), Citizens United Against Low Level Flights, the Conservation Congress, South Wood County Airport, Central Wisconsin Regional Airport, St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, and affected private landowners! This incomplete list represents most of Wood County! There has also been deep concern expressed for the impact on endangered and threatened species by the Natural Resources

Senators Kohl and Feingold

Page 2 of 2

11/21/97

Foundation of Wisconsin! What more evidence does the government need?

Many far reaching laws with greater impact on our daily homes and businesses are created without nearly as much input. This is significant! Citizens need to know that the democratic process works and that they can encourage responsible government. Efficient national defense, yes...Range expansion in Wood and Juneau County, NO! Please make a long term practical decision.

Sincerely,



Mary Brazeau Brown

cc: Program Manager, Hardwood EIS
Environmental Division
Air National Guard CEVP
3500 Fetchet Avenue
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5157

c/o Faxed: 301-836-8001



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Mary Brazeau Brown
R.S. Brazeau, Incorporated
Post Office Box 903
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-0903

Dear Ms. Brown

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter regarding the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. In addition, please be assured that the Guard is consulting the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on threatened and endangered species issues associated with the proposed expansion. The results of these consultations will be included in the forthcoming Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Sen Kohl,

97 NOV 25 AM 10:19

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I vehemently oppose the expansion of the bombing range into 6,000 acres of Wood County forest. State Statute 28.11 protects public forests for future generations. If the military condemns the forest land in order to proceed it would be a clear violation of state's rights. On my behalf, please issue a clear message to the military to leave our forests at rest.

Sincerely,

Peg LaMartina
RR 2 Box 69
Harp Mills, WI 54631



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 13, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Peg LaMartina
RR 2 Box 69
Garp Mills, Wisconsin 54631

Dear Ms. LaMartina

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust this information is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

EASTERN POINT LIGHTHOUSE, GLOUCESTER
 CAPE ANN, MASS
 One of the oldest lighthouses along the New
 England Coast. Located at the entrance to Glou-
 cester Harbor at Dog Bar Breakwater



Mr. Michael P. McCaffery
 11666 X Galvin Ave. SOUTH
 Marshfield, WI 54449-8504

DEAR SEN. KOHL, PLEASE, SAY "NO"

TO THE HARDWOOD BOMBING
 RANGE EXPANSION. DOG. WE THE
 MILITARY AS MUCH MONEY
 AS THEY NEED TO BOMB
 SOMEPLACE ELSE AND LEAVE
 THE RAIN-WATERED WONDERLAND
 OF WISCONSIN ALONE. THANKS

MA1475 - Color photo by [unclear]



U.S. SEN. HERBERT KOHL
 330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC
 20510-4903



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Michael P. McCaffery
11666 Galvin Avenue South
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449-8504

Dear Mr. McCaffery

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

JAN 6 1999

Dear Senator Kohl:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and associated airspace actions.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force and this number is expected to increase. I want the men and women serving this country to have training opportunities that allow them to perform their military missions and return home safely to their families, homes and jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

I am a tax payer. I want our government to operate as cost effectively as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform over 35% of the missions with 18% of the people and only 6% of the Air Force budget. They are training more intensely then ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. Increasing reliance on the Guard for overseas operations makes local training even more important as it helps reduce the need to take traditional members out of the work force for training periods to other installations. Their commitment is enormous and deserves our support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas of the world today. In the past year alone, the 185 Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa spent month long rotations in the skies over northern Iraq. This calendar year, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing will serve two rotations enforcing United Nations sanctions in the skies over Iraq. Aircrews train to perform these real world missions at Hardwood Range and in Volk Field managed airspace.

I urge you to support the expansion of Hardwood Range. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned and deserve that support.

Thank You.

Shirley M. Salovei.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Thomas M. Talarek
4243 Lookout Terrace
McFarland, Wisconsin 53558-9730

Dear Mr. Talarek

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letters concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



IRON COUNTY FORESTRY COMMITTEE



606 Third Ave. North

Phone 561-2697

Hurley, Wis 54534

1/9/98

Dear Friend,

I have attached a copy of Iron County Board Resolution #2290, which was passed by the Iron County Board of Supervisors on December 17, 1997. I am sending this information to you as directed by the Iron County Board, and the Iron County Clerk.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and please feel free to contact our office (715-561-2697, E-Mail: TOM-ICF@JUNO.COM) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Tom Salzmann
Forest Administrator



RECOMMENDATION TO THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPPORT OF WOOD COUNTY BOARD IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION
OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD HARDWOOD BOMBING RANGE

RESOLUTION NO. 2290

DATE 12/17/97

WHEREAS: The U.S. Air National Guard has proposed an expansion of its' Hardwood Bombing Range from its' present boundaries in Juneau County onto 6000 acres of the Wood County Forest, and

WHEREAS: The members of the Wood County Board of Supervisors have formally expressed their opposition to this proposed encroachment onto their county forest lands by the Air National Guard, and

WHEREAS: Each of the 28 Wisconsin Counties who have county forests have invested decades of time, and considerable financial resources into the restoration of those forests for the benefit of their counties, and the entire state; and it is essential to the continued success of Wisconsin's County Forest Program that those counties retain ultimate control over their county forest lands, and

WHEREAS: A taking of Wood County Forest lands by the U.S. Government, which is done against the wishes of the Wood County Board of Supervisors would set a precedent that potentially threatens local control of every county forest, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iron County Board of Supervisors do hereby place on record their support of the Wood County Board of Supervisor's efforts to oppose expansion of the Air National Guard's Hardwood Bombing Range into the Wood County Forest, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Iron County Board of Supervisors do hereby request of Iron County's representatives in the Federal and State Legislatures, Governor Tommy Thompson, and D.N.R. Secretary George Meyer that they support Wood County's efforts to oppose expansion of the Hardwood Bombing Range into Wood County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Iron County Clerk is hereby authorized, and directed to send copies of this resolution to all of the above mentioned officials.

IRON COUNTY FORESTRY COMMITTEE

THOMAS POPKO - CHAIR

LAWRENCE VANDEVOORDE - VICE CHAIR

KENNETH LICHT

JAMES STRAND

KENNETH GENISOT



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Mr. Tom Salzmann
Forest Administrator
Iron County Forestry Committee
606 Third Avenue, North
Hurley, Wisconsin 54534

Dear Mr. Salzmann

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion.

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Bull, III".

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Senator Herbert Kohl
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4903

98 JAN 20 AM 10:02

January 14, 1998
N30924 Trump Coulee Road
Taylor, WI 54659-8015

Dear Senator Kohl:

It has come to my attention that the Air National Guard, in Juneau County, Wisconsin, wishes to expand its Hardwood Bombing Range by adding 7,100 adjacent acres of Wood County Forest Land. I am writing to ask your help in preventing this from happening.

The Wood County Forest Land contains a great degree of biodiversity. The ANG would cut down and clear four square miles of forest, destroying valuable habitat. There are also many acres of healthy wetlands within in the desired area which would be lost or compromised.

The Draft Environment Impact Statement issued by the ANG skims or dismisses the value of this area to wildlife. In fact the Draft EIS is "grossly vague, evasive and deficient with factual information." From wetland impact to contaminant disposal areas, to loss of recreational land and "sustainable" forestry to the public.

Nor does the ANG demonstrate that this expansion of their bombing range is necessary. It does state that the German Air Force will practice at this range. Not a satisfactory need, in my opinion, to destroy 7,100 acres of U.S. land that is enriched with biodiversity! There are numerous bombing ranges within the U.S. alone, encompassing a wide variety of training terrain. Nor does the ANG demonstrate that it absolutely needs that particular parcel of land. There is no need to the Air National Guard to destroy such an area as the Wood County Forest Land!

Please, your help is vital in the effort to prevent the ANG from expanding their Hardwood Bombing Range into the Wood County Forest. This is not in the interest of "national security" or wartime needs. It is an unnecessary expansion that should not be allowed to move forward.

Sincerely,



Dianna Brown



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 17, 1998

SAF/LLP
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Ms. Dianna Brown
N30924 Trump Coulee Road
Taylor, Wisconsin 54659-8015

Dear Ms. Brown

The Honorable Herb Kohl, United States Senate, has asked that we respond to your letter concerning the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard (Guard) appreciates your opinion and concern. Public input is important to the Guard, and we use it in making decisions which may affect citizens who live in areas where we conduct operations. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the appropriate office for inclusion in the administrative record for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. The administrative record will serve as a source of information for any decision made with regard to the proposed expansion. You have raised certain concerns about the need for the proposed expansion and possible impacts to the environment. Generally speaking, the Guard needs the Hardwood Range expansion in order to effectively train aircrews on tactics developed for aircraft stationed in the region and deployed to Volk Field. As to the possible impacts to recreation and the environment, the Guard anticipates little or no adverse impact to recreational use of lands in the area of the proposed expansion. Furthermore, the Guard takes stewardship of the environment very seriously. To this end, we are currently consulting with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to address endangered and threatened species issues. The results of these consultations and a complete analysis of other potential impacts on the human environment will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We trust the information provided is useful.

Sincerely

STEPHEN D. BULL, III
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Programs and Legislation
Division
Office of Legislative Liaison